

OCTOBER 26, 2025
TWENTIETH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking† faith home

Pursuing God with prayer and humility.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 18:9-14	A Pharisee and tax collector pray
Monday	Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22	Jeremiah prays to the Lord
Tuesday	2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18	A soldier of Christ Jesus
Wednesday	Romans 12:14-21	Marks of the true Christian
Thursday	Proverbs 11:2	Watch what you say and do
Friday	2 Corinthians 12:1-10	Paul's visions
Saturday	Psalms 84:1-7	The joy of worship
Sunday	Luke 19:1-10	Jesus visits Zacchaeus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"I tell you, this man [tax collector] went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted." **Luke 18:14 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty and merciful God, give us the faith to humbly and continually seek your goodness through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, for the food that we eat and the people that we meet, give us thankful and humble hearts to follow you each and every day through Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with a humble heart.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*What Does the Lord
Require of You?*

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Who can you name that is a humble person and why would you describe them that way?
- How would you describe a life of prayer to someone?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 18:1-14.

Jesus tells two parables with the theme of the *"need to pray always and not to lose heart"* (v. 1). Jesus tells the first parable about a widow who is relentless in seeking justice from an unjust judge. Her persistent demands are finally rewarded. Then Jesus tells another parable about a tax collector who is anything but demanding. He can't *"even lift up his eyes to heaven"* (v. 13) when he prays and says, *"God, be merciful to me, a sinner"* (v. 13). Combined, these parables say much about the life of prayer and faith. Determination and a deep sense of humility go together. Our lives are totally dependent upon a gracious God every moment of every day. We need persistence in our relationship to God. And yet, our lives are like the tax collector, filled with awareness of our shortcomings. We pursue God with humility, not like the self-confident Pharisee who cannot see the tax collector with the eyes of compassion. We don't lose heart in our life of prayer because we have Jesus, the one who shows us mercy and praises humility.

Discuss: When do you reach out to God in prayer?

Pray: **Gracious God, thank you for your mercy that gives us hope and courage; give us determination to humbly seek your mercy and grace through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you encourage someone to pray with you?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Luke 18:13 is one of the foundational texts for the "Jesus Prayer," sometimes referred to as the "Prayer of the Heart." This prayer has been widely taught in the Orthodox Church as a monastic prayer but is not only limited to monks and clergy. It is a prayer for all people of all ages. Think or talk about when you pray and how you pray. Kneel (if you are able) and pray the Jesus Prayer as a sign of humility: **Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. Amen.**

