



## The Word

### 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Week of October 23

#### **Call to Prayer and Sharing**

- ✦ *Leader invites all into a few moments of silent reflection to remember that we are in the presence of God. (reflective pause)*
- ✦ *Then: "In the name of the Father and of the Son . . ."*

#### **The Word of God**

- ✦ *Leader reads part or all of one of the scripture texts from the previous Sunday.*

Luke 18: 9-14

Jesus addressed this parable  
to those who were convinced of their own righteousness  
and despised everyone else.

"Two people went up to the temple area to pray;  
one was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector.  
The Pharisee took up his position and spoke this prayer to himself,  
'O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity --  
greedy, dishonest, adulterous -- or even like this tax collector.  
I fast twice a week, and I pay tithes on my whole income.'  
But the tax collector stood off at a distance  
and would not even raise his eyes to heaven  
but beat his breast and prayed,  
'O God, be merciful to me a sinner.'  
I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former;  
for whoever exalts himself will be humbled,  
and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

#### **Faith Sharing**

- ✦ *Leader reminds everyone of the Question of the Week which relates to the particular group gathered . . . .*

**Children:** Can you name something that a friend or family member does better than you that you admire?

**Teens:** Jesus says that the Pharisee's belief that he is better than the tax collector interferes in his relationship with God. What does it mean to be humble and how can pride be dangerous?

**Adults:** Jesus says that the Pharisee's belief that he is better than the tax collector interferes in his relationship with God. How can someone be proud of themselves without being prideful?

We offer this form of contemplative sharing for pondering Scripture while considering the question, and for the faith sharing which follows.

- Listen/ Read (Lectio): Ponder God's word and listen for what touches your heart.
- Meditate (Meditatio): Notice what you notice. Allow God's word to resonate in you.
- Speak/Share (Oratio): Prayerfully share with the group your thoughts and feelings.
- Rest in God's presence (Contemplatio): Notice God's presence and be still, surrounded by God's love.
- Choose to act (Actio): Trusting in God's nearness, commit to action rooted in love.

*Time is provided for sharing responses to the question. Silence between responses is to be expected. Allow about 15 minutes for faith sharing. For larger groups, leader invites members to divide into groups of three or four for faith sharing.*

- ✦ *When the sharing comes to an end, the leader invites everyone to take a moment to silently and reverently hold what has been shared together.*
- ✦ *Continue with the meeting, turning to the agenda.*

### ***Concluding the meeting***

*At the end of the meeting, the leader closes with the following prayer:*

Good and Gracious God,  
your love for us surpasses all understanding.  
As we leave here today,  
be with us in all our comings and goings,  
and in all that we say and do.  
We pray this in the name of Christ Jesus who is our Light.  
Amen.