

# Reflecting On Sunday's Readings

THE THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—OCTOBER 27, 2019

## First Reading — Sirach 35:12-14, 16-17

<sup>12</sup> ... for the Lord is the judge, and with him is no partiality. <sup>13</sup>He will not show partiality in the case of a poor man; and he will listen to the prayer of one who is wronged. <sup>14</sup>He will not ignore the supplication of the fatherless, nor the widow when she pours out her story. ... <sup>16</sup>He whose service is pleasing to the Lord will be accepted, and his prayer will reach to the clouds. <sup>17</sup>The prayer of the humble pierces the clouds, and he will not be consoled until it reaches the Lord; he will not desist until the Most High visits him, and does justice for the righteous, and executes judgment.

## Responsorial Psalm PS 34:2-3, 17-18, 19, 23

R. (7a) **The Lord hears the cry of the poor.**

I will bless the LORD at all times;  
his praise shall be ever in my mouth.  
Let my soul glory in the LORD;  
the lowly will hear me and be glad.

R. **The Lord hears the cry of the poor.**

The LORD confronts the evildoers,  
to destroy remembrance of them from the earth.  
When the just cry out, the Lord hears them,  
and from all their distress he rescues them.

R. **The Lord hears the cry of the poor.**

The LORD is close to the brokenhearted;  
and those who are crushed in spirit he saves.  
The LORD redeems the lives of his servants;  
no one incurs guilt who takes refuge in him.

R. **The Lord hears the cry of the poor.**

## Second Reading — 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

<sup>6</sup>For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. <sup>7</sup>I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup>Henceforth there is laid up

for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing. ... <sup>16</sup>At my first defense no one took my part; all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! <sup>17</sup>But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength to proclaim the message fully, that all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. <sup>18</sup>The Lord will rescue me from every evil and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

## Gospel Reading — Luke 18:9-14

<sup>9</sup>He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and despised others: <sup>10</sup>"Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup>The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank thee that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup>I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' <sup>13</sup>But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' <sup>14</sup>I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

## Our Lady of Perpetual Help

### INVITATION TO PRAY

Pause for a few moments of silence and enter more deeply into the presence of God...

### Proclaim the Scriptures out loud

As you listen to the scriptures be attentive to a word, a phrase, a question, an image, or a feeling that emerges. Reflect on this quietly or share it aloud.

### INVITATION TO REFLECT

### INVITATION TO GROUP SHARING

#### First Reading — Sirach 35:12-14, 16-17

1. What does this passage tell us about God's response to our prayers?

#### Second Reading — 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

2. How do you view Paul's statements of self-assessment?

#### Gospel Reading — Luke 18:9-14

3. How can we maintain a good self-image but not end up trusting in ourselves?
4. How can we accurately acknowledge our sinfulness without developing a negative self-image?
5. What mistakes did the Pharisee make in evaluating his own righteousness?
6. Fasting and tithing are normally viewed as good things. What was it in the Pharisee's life that made these disciplines fairly meaningless?

### INVITATION TO ACT

*Determine a specific action (individual or group) that flows from your sharing. When choosing an individual action, determine what you will do and share it with the group. When choosing a group action, determine who will take responsibility for different aspects of the action. These should be your primary considerations.*

### CLOSING INVITATION TO PRAY

*Give thanks to God (aloud or silently) for new insights, for desires awakened, for directions clarified, for the gift of one another's openness and sensitivity. Conclude with a final prayer.*