

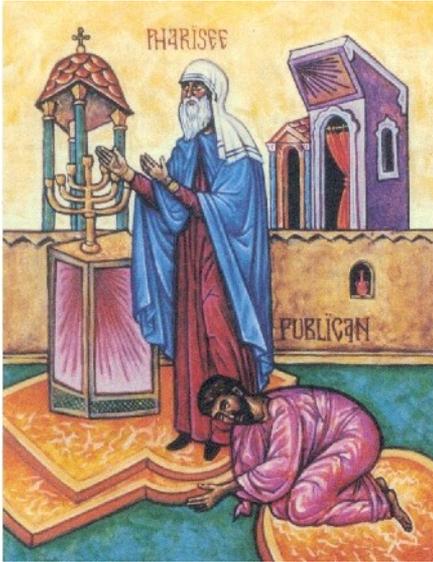
## Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee



*The weight of my transgressions burdens my eyes:  
I cannot lift my gaze to the heights of heaven, O Lord.  
Accept me in repentance, as You accepted the Publican; //  
have mercy on me, O Savior!*

# Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

The Sunday after the Sunday of Zacchaeus is devoted to the Publican



and the Pharisee. At Vespers the night before, the TRIODION (the liturgical book used in the services of Great Lent) begins.

Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee who scrupulously observed the requirements of religion: he prayed, fasted, and contributed money to the Temple. These are very good things, and should be imitated by anyone who loves God. We who may not fulfill these requirements as well as the Pharisee did should not feel entitled to criticize him for being faithful. His sin was in looking down on the Publican and

feeling justified because of his external religious observances.

The second man was a Publican, a tax-collector who was despised by the people. He, however, displayed humility, and this humility justified him before God (Luke 18:14).

The lesson to be learned is that we possess neither the Pharisee's religious piety, nor the Publican's repentance, through which we can be saved. We are called to see ourselves as we really are in the light of Christ's teaching, asking Him to be merciful to us, deliver us from sin, and to lead us on the path of salvation.

*Let us flee from the pride of the Pharisee!  
Let us learn humility from the Publican's tears!*

*Let us cry to our Savior:*

*"Have mercy on us, //  
O only merciful One!"*

# **St Anthony the Great Orthodox Church, Rock Hill SC**

Afterfeast of the Meeting/ Beginning of the Lenten Triodion  
Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee  
Repose of St Theodosius of Cherigov

**February 5, 2017**

Great Vespers and Confession: Saturday, 5:30 p.m.

Divine Liturgy: Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday Vespers and Bible teaching: 5:30 p.m.

## **Services and Announcement**

**Christ in in our midst!**

**Today:** Common meal after Divine Liturgy  
Catechism Class

**Next Week:** Sunday of the Prodigal Son/Tone 1  
St Meletius, Archbishop of Antioch

If you haven't already done so, please schedule your house blessing with either me or Fr Paul before the Great Fast begins.

Volunteering at Project Hope takes place Mon-Thurs, 9-11AM. Please contact John Chura if you are interested in volunteering.

### **\* Great Lent Begins February 27th\***

*This past Sunday we were blessed to have our Annual All Parish Meeting. I am grateful to you, our council members, for all your work and preparation on our behalf. I am grateful to you, our parish members, for your comments, concerns, and your desire for us to grow as a mission. May God guide us as we begin these new initiatives for Church School and Fellowship Groups and pursue the property on Mount Holly Road.*

*Father Adam*

#### **Contact Us:**

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## Today's Gospel

Luke 18:10-14 (NKJV)

“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ 13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

## Today's Epistle

2 Timothy 3:10-15 (NKJV)

But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, 11 persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. 12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. 13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

### **Visitors and the Sacrament of Holy Communion**

If you are visiting today and are not a member of the Orthodox Church, your presence and prayers with us are most welcome! Yet due to the nature of the sacrament, only Orthodox Christians who are active in the Church may receive holy communion. (But don't be surprised if someone hands you a piece of the blessed bread that is taken after communion, of which all may partake, even if not a member of the Orthodox Church.) Please introduce yourself to one of the priests and tell him a little about your own faith background, if any, sign our guest book, and stay for the coffee hour meal to follow.