



## WEPC Lectionary Project: *Union with Christ*

West End Presbyterian Church is using the Scripture readings recommended by the Revised Common Lectionary as a framework for our corporate worship and our personal and family devotion. This project is part of WEPC's 25th Anniversary Year and will run from December 2018 through November 2019. The Lectionary gives us access to the whole counsel of Scripture and these texts are a means for us to grow in our understanding of our union with Christ.

To learn more and subscribe to a daily email of Daily Scripture Readings, visit [www.wepc.org/lectionary](http://www.wepc.org/lectionary).

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### Sunday, October 27, 2019

*The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost: Ordinary Time*  
[Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22](#) *Are You Not He, O LORD our God?*  
[Psalm 84:1-7](#) *Strength is in You*  
[II Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18](#) *So I Was Rescued*  
[Luke 18:9-14](#) *Humbled, Exalted*

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### Monday, October 28

[Psalm 84:8-12](#) *Better*  
[I Samuel 2:1-10](#) *My Heart Exults in the LORD*  
[I Peter 4:12-19](#) *Share*

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### Tuesday, October 29

[Psalm 84:8-12](#) *Better*  
[Daniel 5:1-12](#) *Writing on the Wall*  
[I Peter 5:1-11](#) *The Mighty Hand*

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### Wednesday, October 30

[Psalm 84:8-12](#) *Better*  
[Daniel 5:13-31](#) *Daniel Urges Humility*  
[Matthew 21:28-32](#) *The Faith of Tax Collectors & Prostitutes*

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### Thursday, October 31

[Psalm 32:1-7](#) *You Preserve Me*  
[Proverbs 15:8-11, 24-33](#) *He Hears the Prayer of the Righteous*  
[II Corinthians 1:1-11](#) *Comfort & Affliction*

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### Friday, November 1

[Psalm 32:1-7](#) *You Preserve Me*  
[Job 22:21-23:17](#) *Oh, That I Knew*  
[II Peter 1:1-11](#) *Partakers of the Divine Nature*

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### Saturday, November 2

[Psalm 32:1-7](#) *You Preserve Me*  
[Isaiah 1:1-9](#) *They Have Forsaken the LORD*  
[John 8:39-47](#) *Two Fathers*

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## **Humbled, Exalted**

This week, Pastor Kevin Greene preached from [Luke 18:9-14](#).

<sup>9</sup> He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: <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, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you 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 everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

### **A Message for the Self-Righteous: All of Us**

- “Some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous” (9)
- Not a parable about humility. Not about substituting “humility” for “pride”--one religious posture for another.
- “Learn to praise Him and, despairing of yourself, say, ‘Lord Jesus, You are my righteousness, just as I am Your sin. You have taken upon Yourself what is mine and have given to me what is Yours. You have taken upon Yourself what You were not and have given to me what I was not.’ Beware of aspiring to such purity that you will not wish to be looked upon as a sinner, or to be one. For Christ dwells only in sinners.” (*Martin Luther*)

### **Two People**

- Jesus chooses a “good” character who is just like those hearing the story: a Pharisee (10).
- The Tax Collector is a truly bad guy.

### **Two Conversations**

- The Pharisee talks about himself, to himself. “Standing by himself, prayed thus...” (11-12).
- The Pharisees would say this is a good prayer.
- He compares himself not to good people, but to very bad people. The Pharisee tries to distance himself from the very thing that would qualify him for the Kingdom.
- God’s presence always reveals need (Isaiah 6:1-5, Job 40:4, Luke 5:8).
- “Our self-help culture is preoccupied with ‘self-talk.’ But [God’s Word] gets you out of the monologue business entirely. It gets you talking with the Person whose opinion finally matters. The problem of self-talk is that we aren’t talking to anyone but ourselves. A conversation ought to be taking place, but we repress our awareness of the Person who threatens our self-fascination.” (*David Powlison*)

### **The Conversation We Have With Ourselves**

- What does self-righteousness do to us? Isolation & Lack of Love.
- The Pharisee stakes his life on something God cannot use: himself.
- We are committed to minimizing our sin to something we can “make up for”.

### **The Conversation With God**

- We must stake our life & eternity on God. “Upon a life I did not live, Upon a Death I did not die, Another’s Life; Another’s Death: I stake my whole eternity.” (*Horatius Bonar*)
- The Tax Collector asks for mercy. Because of his sin. (13)
- Consider our worship services. What is the Pharisee’s “liturgy”? Self-exaltation, self-congratulation, and distinction.
- Do you ever confess your sins?

### **God Hears**

- The Tax Collector asks for mercy. God answers with even more. He goes home justified. (14)
- The One telling the parable justifies the ungodly: “Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness.” (Romans 4:4-5)

### **Losing Opens Us Up to God’s Grace**

- It precisely our sins which commend us to God; He finds our need irresistible, attractive.
- He does not simply understand our weakness and make allowances for our errors. He takes the Place of Sinners.