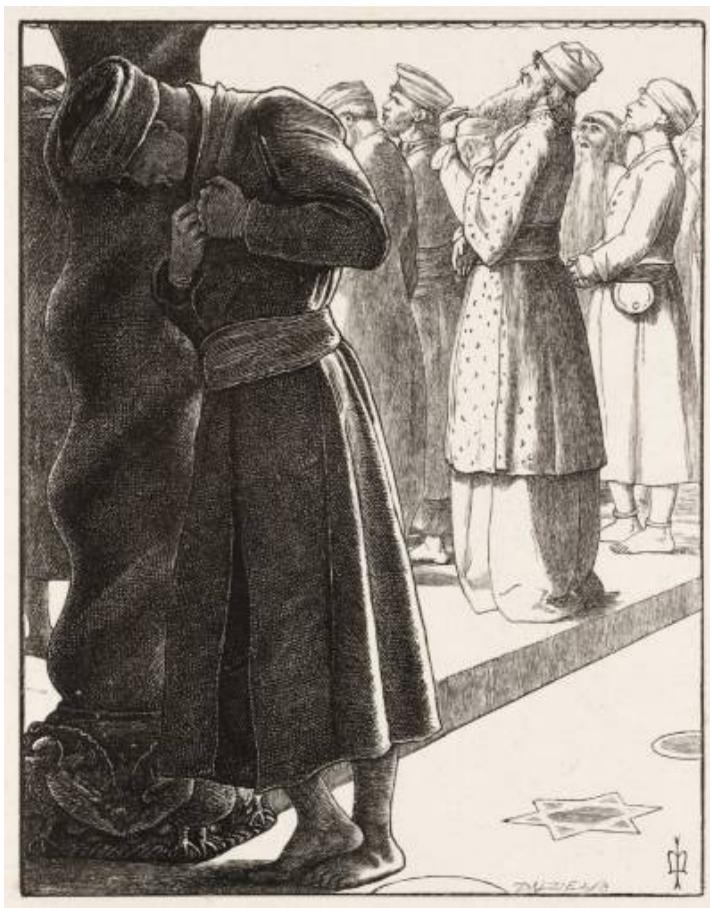


# Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican

2021-02-21

## St. Thomas Orthodox Church

A Parish of the [Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America](#)



### To our visitors...

Welcome! We hope your time with us is healing and worshipful. Please note that, although we have much respect for other Christian traditions, Holy Communion is reserved for properly prepared members of the Orthodox faith. Everyone is invited to partake of the blessed bread after the conclusion of the Liturgy.

May God's blessing be upon you!

## Hymns in Today's Liturgy

### **Resurrectional *Apolytikion* (Tone 4)**

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel, the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

### ***Apolytikion* of St. Thomas (Tone 3)**

O Holy Apostle Thomas, intercede to the merciful God, that He grant unto our souls forgiveness of sins.

### ***Kontakion* for the Pharisee and Publican (Tone 2)**

Let us flee the Pharisee's conceited vaunting; let us learn the Publican's humility, and cry with groans unto the Savior: Thou Who alone art swiftly reconciled, be gracious unto us.

## Epistle

### **II Timothy 3:10–15**

My son Timothy, you have followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, patience, persecutions, sufferings, what things befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra. What persecutions I endured! And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Indeed all who would live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But people who are wicked and deceivers will proceed from worse to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in the things which you have learned and have been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and how from infancy you have known the sacred temple writings which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

## Gospel

### **Luke 18:10–14**

The Lord spoke this parable: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank Thee that I am not like other men, extortionists, unjust,

adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' 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!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

## Synaxarion

On 21 February, in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Venerable Timothy of Symbola; Eustathios, archbishop of Antioch; Zachariah, patriarch of Jerusalem; and George, bishop of Amastris.

On this day, we make remembrance of the Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican, which occurs in the Holy Gospel according to Luke the Evangelist.

If you resemble the Pharisee, run far away from the Temple;  
For inside is Christ before Whom only the humble are acceptable.

O Creator of everything heavenly and earthly,  
receive Thou from the Angels a Trinitarian song,  
And from us men a noble and reverent Triodion.

In the parable our Savior tells, Jesus uses a Pharisee, a leader of the synagogue, who was regarded in public opinion as virtuous; and a publican, a tax collector, who was regarded as oppressive, greedy and a sinner. In their prayers to God, we discover the real hearts of these two men. We thus learn of the harm that comes from pride and the good that comes from humility. The divine Church Fathers sought to alert and to prepare the Christ-loving clergy and laity for the upcoming period of the Great Fast. Therefore, on this Sunday, we are reminded that humility is the greatest weapon against pride as we imitate the humility of the publican to ascend to the divine heights.

Through the intercessions of the wonderworking Saints, O Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.



## Upcoming Events

|           |                   |       |              |
|-----------|-------------------|-------|--------------|
| Wednesday | Daily Vespers     | 18:00 | St. Thomas   |
| Thursday  | <i>Paraklesis</i> | 18:30 | Holy Trinity |
| Saturday  | Great Vespers     | 18:00 | St. Thomas   |

We will stream services live and post updates on [our Facebook page](#), on [our Periscope channel](#), and on [our YouTube channel](#).



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The Most Rev. Metropolitan JOSEPH,  
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