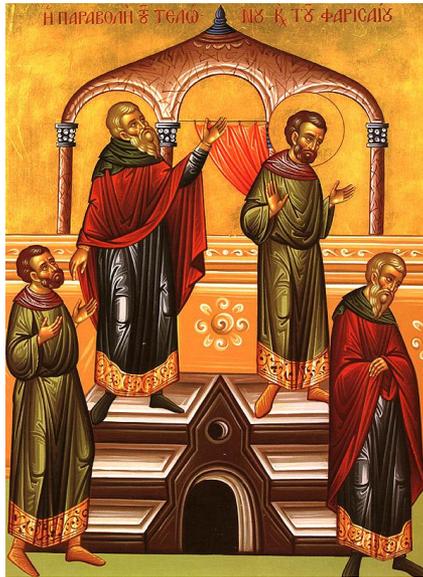




**SAINT  
INNOCENT**

**ORTHODOX  
CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH**

**Sunday, February 21, 2021  
37th Sunday after Pentecost  
Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee  
[Beginning of the Lenten Triodion]**



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Priest Theophan Buck**

## *Troparion and Kontakion*

### **Tone 4      Troparion**    (*Resurrection*)

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: “Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, // granting the world great mercy!”

### **Tone 4      Kontakion**    (*from the Lenten Triodion*)

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!”

### ***Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15***

<sup>10</sup> But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. <sup>13</sup> But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. <sup>14</sup> But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, <sup>15</sup> 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.

***Gospel: Luke 18:10-14***

<sup>10</sup>“Two men went up to 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 You that I am not like other men – extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. <sup>12</sup>I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ <sup>13</sup>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!’ <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, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

**GREAT LENT**  
**A SCHOOL OF REPENTANCE**  
***Its Meaning for Orthodox Christians***  
***By The Rt. Rev. Alexander Schmemmann***

Three weeks before Lent proper begins we enter into a period of pre-Lenten preparation. It is a constant feature of the Orthodox tradition of worship that every major liturgical event—(Christmas, Easter, Lent)—is announced and prepared in advance. Knowing our lack of concentration, the "worldliness" of our life, the Church calls our attention to the seriousness of the approaching event, invites us to meditate on its significance. Thus, before we can practice Lent, we are given its meaning.

This preparation includes four consecutive Sundays preceding Lent, each one of them dedicated to some fundamental aspect of repentance.

*The First Sunday of Preparation: Humility  
(Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee)*

On the eve of this day (i.e. on Saturday at Vespers) the liturgical book of the Lenten season—the Triodion makes its first appearance and texts from it are added to the usual liturgical material of the weekly Resurrection service. They develop the first major theme of repentance: humility.

The Gospel lesson (Luke 18:10-14) teaches us that humility is the condition of repentance. The parable of the Publican and Pharisee pictures a man who is always pleased with himself and who thinks that he complies with all the requirements of religion. He is proud of himself and self-assured. In reality, however, he has falsified the meaning of religion. He has reduced it to external observations and he measures his piety by the amount of money he gives to the temple. Religion is for him a source of self-admiration. The Publican humbles himself and humility justifies him before God.

"Let us avoid the high-flown speech of the Pharisee" — says the Kontakion of the day — "and learn the majesty of the Publican's humble words."

*Many Years!*

Birthdays    24    Don Eberhart

*Announcements for Sunday, February 21, 2021:*

- This week is Fast Free on Wednesday and Friday!
- Wednesday @ 6pm Vespers
  - @ 7:15pm Prayer in Unseen Warfare discussion group