

Weekly Rhythm (Readings) Sunday 27 October

Engaging with the weekly Lectionary Readings
Comment and Questions

[Joel 2:23-32.](#)

The only reading from Joel in Year C. The previous verses describe with graphic detail the destruction of Jerusalem and Judah. These verses speak of a restoration to come and later a time when God's Spirit would be poured out on ALL flesh with simultaneous portents in heaven and earth -- while the sky is dark and the moon blood red, people of all ages and stations will prophesy, see visions, and dream dreams.

[Psalm 65.](#)

A psalm of thanksgiving for fruitful times, especially for a successful harvest. To offer this psalm in response to Joel is to participate in the promise of abundance to come. Response: "Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices."

[2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18](#) (4th week of 4).

"The time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race."

[Luke 18:9-14](#)

A religious leader: "God, I thank you that I am not like other people." A tax collector: "God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

(Readings and comments: thanks to gbod.org)

Questions for reflections and discussion

- 1) Why do you think a Pharisee and a tax-collector have been used as the characters in this story?
- 2) What are the differences between what the Pharisee and Tax collector say?
- 3) What do their body actions express?
- 4) In noting the Pharisees words, explore what drives our needs to compare ourselves favourably to others. Is this related to our need to blame others?
- 5) Richard Rohr uses the term "falling upward". How might the tax collector be "falling upward"? How is this different to climbing up the ladder in our own righteousness?
- 6) What kind of community would the Pharisee be moulding? What kind of community would the tax-collector be a part of?
- 7) How might this story influence your life?