JESUS & PHARISEES

A Meditation on St. Matthew xxii. 34-46

One of the things that is easy to miss in the Gospels is that Jesus loves the scribes and Pharisees.

Convinced that the failures of their forebears had wrought considerable devastation, the Pharisees resolved to be the ones to rectify it. On the surface, this intention appears commendable and noble. They scrutinized the myriad commandments, laws, and rituals delineated by God, vowing to adhere to them with unparalleled diligence. Indeed, they aspired to transcend previous observances. They began to entertain the notion that more was inherently superior. This marked a profound transformation: where once the scribes and Pharisees were consumed by a profound love for God, their stringent and overbearing regulations were now motivated not by love, but by a desire for control, fueled by their belief that they possessed all the answers. They relished the sense of authority and dominion.

Jesus invokes the "Shema," which embodies the essence of the Torah: *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind… [and] your neighbor as yourself."* The Pharisees and scribes remain oblivious to the fact that their self-righteousness has obscured their vision of the Love incarnate in the person of Jesus.

Are we akin to the Pharisees? Do we find ourselves slightly unsettled upon hearing the Gospel?

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THE ORDER OF

HOLY COMMUNION

Love God and Neighbor

THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

4 OCTOBER 2026



Our Lord teaches the Pharisees

AI-generated illustration

The Church of Our Saviour and the Holy Apostles
The Church of Our Saviour, Santa Barbara

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Parishes in the Anglican Province of Christ the King
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The Rev. Robert Greene, *Curate* · The Rev. Boyd Britton, *Vicar* · The Rev. Philip Ternahan, *Assisting*
Holy Communion & Hymns: 10:00 a.m. Los Angeles · 11:30 a.m. Santa Barbara
5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer · Zoom · Home Invitation

The Processional Hymn.....*Melcombe*.....# 155

INTROIT. *Da pacem, Domine. (Ecclesiasticus 36. 16; Psalm 122.)* Give peace, O Lord, unto them that wait for thee, and let thy prophets be found faithful : hear the prayer of thy servants, and of thy people Israel. I was glad when they said unto me : We will go into the house of the Lord. Glory be.

The Collect for Purity & Summary of the Law.....p. 67
The Ninefold Kyrie (Greek)..... *Willan*.....# 710
The Gloria in Excelsis.....*Merbecke*.....# 739
The Collect for Trinity XVIII.....p. 214
The Epistle: I Corinthians i. 4-8.....p. 214

GRADUAL & ALLELUIA. *Psalm 122; Psalm 102.* I was glad when they said unto me : We will go into the house of the Lord. Peace be within thy walls, and plenteousness within thy palaces. Alleluia, alleluia. The heathen shall fear thy Name, O Lord : and all the kings of the earth thy majesty. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel: St. Matthew xxii. 34-46.....p. 215
The Nicene Creed.....p. 71
The Sermon Hymn.....*Hyfrydol*.....# 479

OFFERTORY. *Exodus 24.* Moses built an altar unto the Lord, and offered burnt offerings upon it, and sacrificed peace offerings; and he made an evening sacrifice for a sweet-smelling savor unto the Lord God, in the eyes of the children of Israel.

The Offertory Hymn..... *Webb*.....# 562
The Doxology.....*Old Hundredth*.....# 139

THE ORATE FRATRES. V/ Pray, brethren, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the Father Almighty. R/ May the Lord receive this sacrifice at thy hand to the praise and glory of his Name, both to our benefit and that of all his holy Church. (To which the priest responds: Amen.)

The Prayer for the Church & General Confession.....p. 74
The Absolution and Comfortable Words.....p. 76
The Sursum Corda and Proper Preface
The Sanctus and Benedictus..... *Willan*.....# 711

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION.....p. 80

The Lord's Prayer, the Fraction & Pax Domini
The Agnus Dei..... *Willan*.....# 712
The Prayer for Unity.....p. 49
The Prayer of Humble Access.....p. 82

The Communion Hymn.....*Rendez a Dieu*.....# 195
The Prayer of Thanksgiving.....p. 83

COMMUNION. *Psalm 96.* Bring presents and come into his courts : O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT. Grant, we beseech thee, Almighty God : that thy sanctifying power may effectually cleanse us from all our sins and be profitable for our healing unto life everlasting.

The Dismissal · V/ Depart in Peace · R/ Thanks be to God
The Blessing.....p. 84
The Recessional Hymn.....*Darwall*.....# 600