

Today's readings remind us of the tender mercy of God who is always there for us, with us, and in us.

Have you ever needed God, really needed God?

Have you been at the end of your rope and cried out: Help!

And really meant it? There is an emptiness in that moment, a void, that is almost palpable. If we are courageous enough to sit in that moment - for a moment - we may even recognize a stillness, a peace, perhaps even a presence of grace.

The prayer of the tax collector in the gospel today was simple: he bowed his head and beat his breast and prayed for God's mercy. He recognized his need for God.

Recognizing our need for God, or for anyone, is not easy. We are socialized to do everything on our own. Today's gospel asks us to shift our perception and recognize that all that we do... we do with God – or is it what God does with us.

At the beginning of the Eucharist, let us take a moment of silence, to remember our need for God and to ask God for help, in our words, in our own way... (Pause)

Today may we know God's presence and God's mercy.