

Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity 23c

OPENING PRAYER:

Gracious God, you call us to fullness of life: deliver us from unbelief and banish our anxieties with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15b

A reading from the second book of Kings.

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favour with his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, 'If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.'

When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, 'Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me.' But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, 'Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel.'

So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, 'Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean.' But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, 'I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?' He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, 'Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, "Wash, and be clean"?''

So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean. Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company; Naaman came and stood before him and said, 'Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM from Psalm 98

R. The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations

1. Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation. **(R.)**

2. The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel. **(R.)**

3. All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord all the earth,
ring out your joy. **(R.)**

SECOND READING 2 Timothy 2:8-15

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David – that is my gospel, for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

The saying is sure: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he will also deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful – for he cannot deny himself.

Remind them of this, and warn them before God that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL Luke 17:11-19

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!' When he saw them, he said to them, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, 'Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?' Then he said to Samaritan, 'Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

“Returning to Give Thanks”

In Luke 17:11-19, Jesus heals ten lepers who call out to Him for mercy. As they go, they are cleansed, but only one, a Samaritan, returns to thank Him, falling at His feet in praise. Jesus asks, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?” Then He says to the man, “Your faith has made you well.”

This passage reminds us that gratitude completes healing. The nine received physical restoration but missed the deeper encounter with God's grace. The Samaritan's thanksgiving brought him not only healing but wholeness of soul. We are called to live lives marked by gratitude – returning each day to give thanks to the One who gives us life, mercy, and hope.

Prayer

Lord Jesus,
Give me a grateful heart today.
May I never take Your gifts for granted,
but return to You in praise and thanksgiving.
Amen.

Short Scripture

“Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice” (Luke 17:15)

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS:

Lord, help us to see what is eternally good and true and having seen to go on searching until we come to the joys of heaven through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COMMUNION SENTENCE:

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.
Matthew 5:16

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**