



Seventeenth Sunday after TRINITY 12th October 2025

In the name of the + Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Greeting

Grace, mercy, and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

HYMN

O Jesus, I have promised
To serve Thee to the end;
Be Thou forever near me,
My Master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle
If Thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If Thou wilt be my Guide.

Oh, let me feel Thee near me;
The world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
The tempting sounds I hear;
My foes are ever near me,
Around me and within;
But, Jesus, draw Thou nearer,
And shield my soul from sin.

Oh, let me hear Thee speaking,
In accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion,
The murmurs of self-will;
Oh, speak to reassure me,
To hasten, or control;
Oh, speak, and make me listen,
Thou Guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, Thou hast promised
To all who follow Thee
That where Thou art in glory
There shall Thy servant be;
And Jesus, I have promised
To serve Thee to the end;
Oh, give me grace to follow,
My Master and my Friend.

Oh, let me see Thy footmarks,
And in them plant mine own;
My hope to follow duly
Is in Thy strength alone.
Oh, guide me, call me, draw me,
Uphold me to the end;
And then to rest receive me,
My Saviour and my Friend.

Invitation to Confession

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.

Lord God,
we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.

Renew a right spirit within us
and restore us to the joy of your salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse us from our sins,
and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen.

The Collect

Almighty God,
you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you:
pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself,
and so bring us at last to your heavenly city
where we shall see you face to face;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

A reading from the Old Testament
2 Kings 5 1-3, 7-15c

5 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. 2 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. 3 She said to her mistress, 'If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.'

7 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.'

8 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.' 9 So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. 10 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.' 11 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! 12 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. 13 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"?' 14 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.

15 Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company; he came and stood before him and said, 'Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel.'

Praise for God's Wonderful Works

1 Praise the Lord!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

2 Great are the works of the Lord,
studied by all who delight in them.

3 Full of honour and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures for ever.

4 He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;
the Lord is gracious and merciful.

5 He provides food for those who fear him;
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

6 He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the heritage of the nations.

7 The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy.

8 They are established for ever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

9 He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant for ever.
Holy and awesome is his name.

10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practise it have a good understanding.
His praise endures for ever.



Epistle

2 Timothy 2. 8-15

2 You then, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus; 2 and what you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well. 3 Share in suffering like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No one serving in the army gets entangled in everyday affairs; the soldier's aim is to please the enlisting officer. 5 And in the case of an athlete, no one is crowned without competing according to the rules. 6 It is the farmer who does the work who ought to have the first share of the crops. 7 Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in all things.

8 Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, 9 for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. 10 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. 11 The saying is sure:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

12 if we endure, we will also reign with him;

if we deny him, he will also deny us;

13 if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

HYMN

We love the place, O God,
wherein thine honor dwells;
the joy of thine abode
all earthly joy excels

We love the sacred font;
for there the Holy Dove
to pour is ever wont
his blessing from above

We love the word of life,
the word that tells of peace,
of comfort in the strife,
and joys that never cease.

It is the house of prayer,
wherein thy servants meet;
and thou, O Lord, art there
thy chosen flock to greet

We love thine altar, Lord;
O what on earth so dear?
For there in faith adored,
we find thy presence near.

We love to sing below
for mercies freely given;
but O we long to know
the triumph-song of heaven.

Lord Jesus, give us grace
on earth to love thee more,
in heaven to see thy face,
and with thy saints adore.

The Gospel
Luke 17. 5-10

Alleluia, alleluia. Welcome with meekness the implanted word
That has the power to save your souls
Alleluia

The Holy Gospel is from the 17th chapter of the Gospel of Luke beginning at the 11th verse.
Glory to you O Lord

11 On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. 12 As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, 13 they called out, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!' 14 When he saw them, he said to them, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went, they were made clean. 15 Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. 16 He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. 17 Then Jesus asked, 'Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? 18 Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?' 19 Then he said to him, '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

Reflection

The most obvious action in the Gospel today is that of the one leper who comes back to thank Jesus for his healing and the most obvious point I could make is that thankfulness is a form of worship.

I suspect we often think that if our life could change, be this way or that, have this or that, then we would be thankful, happy, content. That thankfulness must depend upon circumstance. But life is not like that, we would just exchange one set of stuff for another.

There is a prayer of acceptance that views life as 'everything is as it should be, and all will be well'. It is difficult to include everything in that category. However, even here thankfulness is a key. Our circumstances may be challenging but acceptance is better than fighting what we cannot change. Thankfulness makes us realise that it could be worse. Thankfulness acknowledges something outside us, and as people of faith we believe that the God we turn to, loves us.

Actually, we find it very hard to let God love us.

Jesus promises us joy not deliverance. "In this world you will have tribulation... but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world." Joy is different from happiness. It is a deep thing and a source of strength. That being the case that what is happening to us right now is part of our faith journey and co-operation is better than resistance. Surrendering all to God allows for creative thinking and action.

The lepers acted. Their disease was truly horrid, disfiguring, grotesque, smelly, isolating a slow death and no cure. These lepers were acutely aware of their need. They gather their courage and make it into the town. Keeping their distance, they call out for Jesus' attention. What have they to lose?

Jesus does not touch them or go over to them he simply speaks, "Go and show yourselves to the priests". Well, would you believe that would work, standing there with your skin still rotten? But they turned and went, anything was worth a try. It is as they go, they find themselves healed.

The picture of the lepers (imagine it) is vivid. Their miserable state, their coming to Jesus, and importantly their *turning*. I wonder if they thought the instruction to go and show themselves to the authorities was just Jesus' way of getting rid of them. Maybe there was not much faith and belief amongst them. But it was as they *turned* and walked away that the miracle of healing happened.

This was a physical healing, but it mirrors for us a picture of the forgiveness and healing God gives us in the person of Jesus. For years we may have heard the words of forgiveness preached week in and out and still cannot apply it to ourselves. It seems too simple, too easy. Is it possible that there is forgiveness and a fresh start?

To understand the Good News of Jesus we must know the bad news, our completely lost-ness without him and his saving act on the cross. That Jesus the Christ is the only one who can do for us something as life changing as the leper's healing.

In Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, Christian carries his great heavy burden of sin for a long time. Exhausted and worn out he comes to the foot of the cross. Only there does it roll off his shoulders and he is free, for it is the cross of Jesus that deals with sin and thereby brings us release and forgiveness.

But we can hear the words of forgiveness but not receive them. It can be difficult to let go of what troubles us. The 'burden' is lifted but we pick it up again. We have become so identified with this way of living (our great sorrow/grief/misery/bitterness) that we cannot imagine life without it.

That is a challenge, and like the lepers it begins with a turning. A purposeful belief that all that disfigures our lives is dealt with by Jesus and a new life without the burden is possible

But what of the leper who returns? Jesus says to him. "Go your way your faith has made you well." What is the difference between his healing and that of the other nine?

"Made you *well* . . ." this is a different word to *healed*. It means wholeness. Jesus says this to the man - who gave thanks before his circumstances changed - who worshipped God before he returned home - "you are well!". Jesus pronounces a complete healing, a wellness that passes all other wellness terms. This man, Jesus knew, understands. His healing was not just of his disease but of his whole self, an ongoing healing which he will experience for the rest of his life.

In God's mercy and love this is what we can hear now. 'Go your way your faith has made you well.'

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.

Intercessions

Let us pray to the Father through his Son
who suffered on the cross for the world's redemption.

Fill with your Spirit Christ's broken body, the Church ...
Bless those who lead the Church with wisdom...
draw your people close to you.

Look in your mercy upon the world you love.
For the natural world destroyed by our greed
For the nations in turmoil and distress
Bring healing by the wounds of Christ
to all who are weighed down by pain and injustice ...

Be present with those in prison, refugees, those trafficked for gain
the deserted, orphaned, unnoticed and unwanted.
Father, in pity and mercy bring light in their darkness.
For all relief agencies we ask your protection and continued help.

For those known to us who suffer need, sorrow, trouble, or sickness ...
We name them in your love – and leave them there believing you know and care.
Help the lonely and the betrayed, the suffering and the dying.

Welcome into your presence all who have left this world in your friendship ...
According to your promises, bring them with all who have ever loved you
to share in all the benefits of Christ's death and resurrection.

Let us commend the world, for which Christ prays,
to the mercy and protection of God.
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.
Amen

Being made one by the power of the Spirit,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and for ever.
Amen

Blessing

The peace of God be in our heart
The grace of God be in our words
The love of God be in our hands
The joy of God be in our soul
and in the song that our life sings.

And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Be with us now and always. Amen.

HYMN

Angel voices ever singing
round thy throne of light,
angel-harps for ever ringing,
rest not day nor night;
thousands only live to bless thee
and confess thee
Lord of might.

Yea, we know that thou rejoicest
o'er each work of thine;
thou didst ears and hands and voices
for thy praise design;
craftsman's art and music's measure
for thy pleasure
all combine.

Thou who art beyond the farthest
mortal eye can scan,
can it be that thou regardest
songs of sinful man?
can we know that thou art near us,
and wilt hear us?
yea, we can.

In thy house, great God, we offer
of thine own to thee;
and for thine acceptance proffer
all unworthily
hearts and minds and hands and voices
in our choicest
psalmody.

Honour, glory, might, and merit
thine shall ever be,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
blessed Trinity.
Of the best that thou hast given
earth and heaven
render thee.

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