

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost
October 9th, 2022

Introduction to the Day

It's a miracle! Multiple miracles! The waters of holy baptism have healed us. The body and blood of Jesus in holy communion have made us clean. We have died with Christ and been raised with him. For all this we have returned to offer thanks. From this place we are sent on our way rejoicing to share the good news.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of
one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have not followed your path
but have chosen our own way.**

**Instead of putting others before ourselves,
we long to take the best seats at the table.**

**When met by those in need,
we have too often passed by on the other side.
Set us again on the path of life.**

**Save us from ourselves
and free us to love our neighbors.
Amen.**

Hear the good news!

God does not deal with us according to our sins
but delights in granting pardon and mercy.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are
forgiven.

You are free to love as God loves.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"

#857

Greeting

The Grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and most merciful God, your bountiful goodness fills all creation. Keep us safe from all that may hurt us, that, whole and well in body and spirit, we may with grateful hearts accomplish all that you would have us do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Reading: 2 Timothy 2:8-15

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

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

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

if we deny him, he will also deny us;

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

¹⁴Remind 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. ¹⁵Do 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Gospel: Luke 17:11-19

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

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ

Sermon

People of God, grace to you and peace from God, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN

Just last week Jesus spoke directly to the identities of those to whom he was speaking. As His disciples it is in their identity to continually seek to serve their neighbor, BECAUSE of the grace of God they freely receive.

Today, we again hear some identifiers that it would do us well to pay attention to.

First, we hear that they are going through a region between Samaria and Galilee. They enter a village. There are lepers. They call him by name, "Jesus, Master!"

AND THEN, the one who is healed, returns giving thanks and praise to God. He is a Samaritan.

These identifiers tell us that this story takes place someplace in the Borderlands – an in between place, it involves Lepers – a group that would otherwise be socially shunned as unclean, and that they know who Jesus is – they call him by name, which not many do.

These regional/geographic clues tell us this group may very well have been made up of people Jesus otherwise shouldn't/wouldn't interact with as a Jew. Jews and Samaritans typically did not comingle. Nevermind the fact that they were lepers.

So, we truly find ourselves somewhere between. Among the borderlands. No man's land.

The telling of this story, the painting of this Gospel picture, creates for us an US/THEM situation. I imagine it did the same for those living this story. Right in front of their eyes is the Good News, the Gospel, being preached by someone not at all like them, someone they want nothing to do with.

This is an emphasis on the marginalized. And it is intentional. The Good News of this story happens through the ones they/we would least expect.

It would also do us well to notice how healing narratives take place throughout the Gospels.

Notice that Jesus rarely, if ever, goes out seeking people that need healing?

In just about every healing narrative, healing happens because people come, or are brought, to Jesus. At the very least they are on the edge of the road that he is passing along, or in the crowd that he is preaching to. But in every healing story, those needing healing call out to Jesus.

This is what the Good News of God's love is about. The Good News of what Jesus was in the world had reached this group of lepers. They had heard about him and knew that they needed to go and find him, and ask for his mercy on them. And they do. And they are healed.

But, he doesn't *just* heal them. He gives them ownership, he gives them agency, in their healing experience.

Coming to him and calling him by name, he sends them to "Go and show yourselves to the priests."

Fun historical tidbit on this, because they were lepers and deemed unclean according to society, they *needed* the priests to declare them well and fit to return to society.

Except the one. As they are healed on their way to the priests, he stops and returns to Jesus.

Because he has seen and experienced the true power of God's grace and mercy he recognizes Jesus reign and power.

Because he has seen and experienced the true power of God's grace and mercy he realizes he has something to be thank for and gives thanks and praise to God.

Because he has seen and experienced the true power of God's grace and mercy he returns to Jesus. He is not concerned with his societal standing, he wants to be with Jesus.

That makes this an invitation to believers then and now. And the invitation is this...

In the face of adversity do we see danger or opportunity? In the face of human need do we see demand or a gift? In the face of the stranger do we see potential enemy do we see a friend?

People of God, we are called to be like the one who returns. We so often forget. We so often experience the true healing power of God's grace and mercy, and instead of returning to give thanks and praise to God, we move along.

We are called in those moments to hear the Good News of God's grace and mercy, proclaimed from those we least expect, those with the identifiers we find least appealing, and to pause.

We are called to pause and give thanks and praise to God for all that God has done. In moments of worry. Moments of scarcity. Moments of unrest.

And give thanks for where we find that peace – in God from whom it comes.

Thanks be to God. AMEN

Song of the Day

"Baptized and Set Free"

#453

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

In gratitude and humility, let us join together in prayer on behalf of all of God's creation.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for bishops, pastors, and deacons (*church leaders may be named*). Inspire leaders of the church to proclaim your mighty deeds, that your saving faith may be known to all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Majestic God, we give you thanks for land and water, seedtime and harvest. Break down boundaries we construct between ourselves and the rest of your creation. Bring renewal and restoration to places affected by pollution and deforestation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Mighty God, we give you thanks for those in our community, nation, and world who work for justice and peace. Guide those who govern to act on behalf of those marginalized by race, ethnicity, or religion. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Merciful God, we give you thanks that you hear the cries of those in need. Restore to community those who are stigmatized by illness, feel rejected, or who live in isolation. Send healing to all who suffer (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Faithful God, we give you thanks for the healing ministries of this congregation. Equip those who visit, care, and pray for the sick (*especially for Gena, Peyton, Matt, David, Cassie, Verna, Irene, Kathy, Val, Jacob, Keith and JoJo, Bob and Joanne, Bill and Bonnie, Sherm and Mary, Frank and Heather, Bob and Sonja*). Give insight to doctors, nurses, home health aides, and all practitioners of medical arts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Eternal God, we give you thanks for your faithful people who have gone before us to your glory. Renew our trust in your eternal promises of mercy, redemption, and new life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

With grateful hearts we commend our spoken and silent prayers to you, O God; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

Offering

Offertory Prayer

Gracious God,
in your great love you richly provide for our needs. Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing,
and make us ready to share with all in need; through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all.

Amen.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Communion

Prayer

God of the abundant table,
you have refreshed our hearts in this meal
with bread for the journey.
Give us your grace on the road
that we might serve our neighbors with joy;
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Blessing

God, who gives life to all things
and frees us from despair,
bless you with truth and peace.
And may the holy Trinity, † one God,
guide you always in faith, hope, and love.

Amen.

Sending Song

“On Our Way Rejoicing”

#537

Dismissal

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

Okay! We will! Thanks be to God!

And all of Good Shepherd said,

AMEN!