

18th Sunday after Pentecost – Thanksgiving Sunday
Sunday, October 12, 2025

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.

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

A reading from 2 Kings.

Naaman, a Syrian general, suffers from leprosy. In this passage Elisha miraculously cures his illness, but only after Naaman realizes, with the help of his servants, that he also needs healing for his pride. This foreign general then acknowledges the sovereignty of the God of Israel.

PSALM: Psalm 111

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart. (Ps. 111:1)

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 2:8-15

A reading from 2 Timothy.

Though Paul is chained as a prisoner, the word of God is never shackled or confined. Timothy is encouraged to proclaim that word of freedom in an honest and upright life as well as in his teaching and preaching.

GOSPEL: Luke 17:11-19

Jesus' mission includes making people clean again. Unexpectedly, a Samaritan healed of leprosy becomes a model for those who would praise and worship God and give thanks for God's mercy.

GOSPEL MESSAGE - On Common Ground

Ten people are healed by Jesus, but only one returns to thank him. That is the central tension of today's gospel story. But there is also a twist, one we may have missed if we were not listening closely: the one who thanked Jesus was a Samaritan.

The faithful of Jesus' time would have known all about the hostility between Judeans and Samaritans. The conflict between the two groups stretched back generations and generations. It was animosity so entrenched that people probably did not remember the specifics of the fight. They just knew they hated the other side. A Judean would never associate with a Samaritan, much less heal one of them.

But as we see in this story and others throughout the gospels, Jesus did not seem to care about the labels the world assigned to people: scribe or Pharisee, sinner or tax collector. Jesus also did not stop to consider whether the person was from Judea or Samaria. He looked into the eyes of

all who came to him and saw directly to their humanity. He brought healing and wholeness to everyone.

Just as Jesus told the Samaritan, he could tell us, too, that our faith makes us well. God gives us faith that overcomes the destructive words of the world, allowing us to transcend barriers and labels and to recognize the humanity in each individual. God is also calling us as a whole community to go and seek out the Samaritans of our own time and place—anyone whom the rest of the world rejects and reviles—and show them the same compassion and mercy we have received.

God's love makes us whole. Words can hurt, but thanks to Jesus, words can heal too. More often than not, we will find common ground through God's power to heal, even among the Samaritans.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

God who is known in grain and vine, the baptismal waters, and in your word, renew the church's bishops, pastors, deacons, church staff, and all leaders of faith communities, that they live into the fruitful nurturing of disciples. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

God of creation, we give you thanks for sheltering trees, shifting sands, and stabilizing hills. Remind us, as we also learn from our Indigenous siblings, that your care and intention are behind the shaping of all life. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

God of the widow and the orphan, we give thanks for all who serve and protect your most beloved. Let us accompany elected officials and civic leaders as faithful advocates for peace and safety. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

God of tender assurance, we give thanks for your continued presence in times of need. Accompany those who are displaced from native lands, victims of injustice, or in need of your sustenance. Comfort those unable to rejoice because of worry or illness especially Shirley Glickman, Donna L. Hoffman, Glenda Panke, Brenda Schruder, Marilyn Schneider, Doug Sell, Debbie Thom, and those in long term care facilities and senior residences. In this moment of silence, we name out loud or in the quiet of our hearts, those who need your healing touch. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

God of abundance, we give thanks for the gifts and talents shared in this community of faith. In our diverse experiences of your presence, bless each ministry, gathering, and shared space of prayer and fellowship. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

God who feeds us the bread of eternal life, we give thanks for the lives of the saints and our shared memories with those who have died. With full confidence in the resurrection, we honor their faith with our own. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

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