

OCTOBER 13, 2019
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Jesus shows mercy on a foreigner.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 17:11-19	One leper gives thanks to God
Monday	2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c	Elisha heals Naaman
Tuesday	2 Timothy 2:8-15	A good soldier of Christ Jesus
Wednesday	Leviticus 14:33-57	Purification of lepers
Thursday	2 Timothy 1:13-18	Encouragement to be faithful
Friday	Luke 4:23-30	God cares for foreigners
Saturday	Psalms 111	Praise God for wonderful works
Sunday	Luke 18:1-8	Parable of the persistent widow

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” **Luke 17:18 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, you who care for the unacceptable, thank you for caring for me, through Christ our Lord, amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of grace, for food make us thankful, for family and friends make us joyful, and for our salvation, make us grateful. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord be gracious and merciful and give you a thankful heart. (Psalm 111:1, 4)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Have You Thanked
the Lord?*



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Tell or think about a time you were left out of a group. What was it like?
- Are you comfortable or afraid when you meet someone who is different than you are? Why?
- How does God’s mercy give you courage to care for those who are different from you?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 17:11-19.

Paul Tillich, a famous theologian once pointed out that faith is accepting that the unacceptable has been accepted. According to the law of Israel, a leper was unclean and needed to be kept away from the community. Lepers were unacceptable—or at least those who are to be avoided. A Samaritan was despised by first century Jews. Not only does Jesus accept and heal the Samaritan leper—along with nine other lepers—but this leper is the one who responds with a thankful heart at the feet of Jesus. Just like Naaman, the enemy general from Aram (Syria), those who seem far from God’s presence and God’s people are included in God’s work of mercy and salvation. As Jesus says to the Samaritan leper, “your faith has made you well” (v. 19). God’s work of salvation often comes as a work of great surprise to us. How does God’s mercy give you courage to trust that God cares for you?

Pray: **Merciful Savior, thank you for reaching out to those who seem far from you; thank you for reaching out to me. Amen.**

SERVICE

This week’s scripture readings tell of healings. Improved public health care is needed in many parts of the world. Some of it is provided by missionaries who show God’s love by giving much needed food, clean water, mosquito nets, medical treatment, and other care around the world. How can you contribute to or support these faithful missionaries?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

God is holy and awesome. (Psalm 111:9) Take a walk around your neighborhood and make a list of things you see that are awesome. Trees, buildings, the sky, and clouds are a few of the things you might see. Then sit down in your home and look at the list. God is bigger and greater than anything we see. Take time to say a prayer of praise to God and be thankful for “his wonderful deeds”, “the power of his works”, and “the work of his hands” (Psalm 111:4, 6, 7).



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