

Alleluia, alleluia!

For all things give thanks to God,
because this is what he expects of you in
Christ Jesus.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 17:11-19

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Luke.

*It seems that no one has returned to give thanks to
God except this foreigner.*

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered one of the villages, ten lepers came to meet him. They stood some way off and called to him, 'Jesus! Master! Take pity on us.' When he saw them he said, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' Now as they were going away they were cleansed. Finding himself cured, one of them turned back praising God at the top of his voice and threw himself at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan. This made Jesus say, 'Were not all ten made clean? The other nine, where are they? It seems that no one has come back to give praise to God, except this foreigner.' And he said to the man, 'Stand up and go on your way. Your faith has saved you.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

9 OCTOBER 2022

WORD OF GOD CANNOT BE CHAINED

While the people of Israel rejoiced in the unique call they had received, their experience of the world taught them that people of goodwill and faith could be found in other places and cultures. Called to be a light to the nations they knew that sometimes it was others who were light to them. Naaman the Syrian general was prepared to risk trusting the word of his wife's Israelite servant in order to be healed of leprosy. He had come to Elisha with gifts to ensure he would be healed but he leaves not only healed but richer in faith.

In a similar vein, it is a heretical Jew, a Samaritan, who has the eyes to see what the living God is offering in Jesus. He alone has the openness of heart to give thanks for the precious gift he has received through regaining his health. All the lepers were healed but only one has been saved. The outsider is the one who has been saved by means of his faith.

The letter to Timothy reflects on the fact that the Good News cannot be chained or confined. Even though Paul and other early Christian missionaries experienced opposition, hardship and imprisonment for the sake of the Gospel, they knew that their efforts were not in vain. The message of Jesus was not to be confined to Israel and Timothy is encouraged not to lose heart because being immersed in the death of Jesus and in his sufferings means sharing in his resurrected life as well.

FIRST READING

2 Kings 5:14-17

A reading from the second book of the Kings
*Naaman returned to Elisha, the prophet, and
acknowledged the Lord.*

Naaman the leper went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, as Elisha had told him to do. And his flesh became clean once more like the flesh of a little child.

Returning to Elisha with his whole escort, he went in and stood before him. 'Now I know' he said 'that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel. Now, please, accept a present from your servant.' But Elisha replied, 'As the Lord lives, whom I serve, I will accept nothing.' Naaman pressed him to accept, but he refused. Then Naaman said, 'Since your answer is "No," allow your servant to be given as much earth as two mules may carry, because your servant will no longer offer holocaust or sacrifice to any god except the Lord.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 97:1-4. R. cf. v. 2

R. The Lord has revealed to the nations
his saving power.

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 Tim 2:8-13

A reading from the second letter of St Paul
to Timothy

If we hold firm, we shall reign with Christ.

Remember the Good News that I carry, 'Jesus Christ risen from the dead, sprung from the race of David'; it is on account of this that I have my own hardships to bear, even to being chained like a criminal – but they cannot chain up God's news. So I bear it all for the sake of those who are chosen, so that in the end they may have the salvation that is in Christ Jesus and the eternal glory that comes with it.

Here is a saying that you can rely on:

If we have died with him, then we shall live
with him.

If we hold firm, then we shall reign with
him.

If we disown him, then he will disown us.

We may be unfaithful, but he is always
faithful,
for he cannot disown his own self.

■ The word of the Lord.

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