

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION 1 Thess 5:18
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

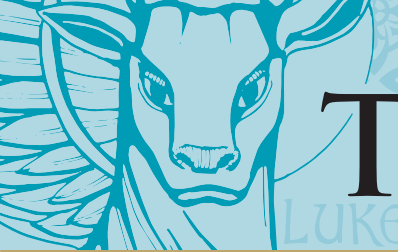
THE CRY OF THE ABANDONED

In this very familiar Gospel story, often titled
‘the healing of the ten lepers’, Jesus is in an
unholy and impure setting. He is travelling, as
Luke notes, between the borders of Samaria
and Galilee. In technical terms, this is a
‘liminal’ place. It is ‘on the edge’ between an
area familiar to Jesus (Galilee) and one that
is unfamiliar and even potentially dangerous
(Samaria).

He enters a village. Jesus’ generic placement (it
is ‘a’ village, not a definitively named location)
allows Luke’s audience to see themselves in this
situation. It is us as we move through life not
knowing what awaits us. Jesus is approached
by ten contaminating and impure characters.
They are called ‘lepers’; their leprosy is not our
traditional Hansen’s disease but a contagious
skin condition. It has the potential to disrupt
and contaminate the community.

As they distance themselves from Jesus they
appeal: “Jesus, Master, have pity on us.” The
Greek literally reads, ‘...have *mercy* on us’.
This is the cry of the abandoned who seek
God’s comforting presence. It is also our cry
in desperate times. Jesus tells the ten to go
to the priests, the officials that can declare
their healed cleanliness. Only one returns to
thank God’s healing work revealed in Jesus.
It is the unexpected one, the ‘foreigner’ that
recognises God’s action through Jesus, a
theme that echoes throughout Luke. Today’s
Gospel invites us to look for God’s actions in
the most surprising places among God’s most
unexpected people. These become the sources
of eucharistic thanksgiving.

Fr Michael Trainor



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

12 OCTOBER 2025

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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