

October 9, 2016 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pray for those who suffer from the perennial cross of illness!

2Kings 5:14-17

Psalm 98:1-4

2 Timothy 2:8-13

Luke 17:11-19



In the first reading Naaman bathes seven times in the Jordan as instructed by Elisha and is cured of his leprosy. Gratefully he returns and desires to give Elisha a gift in return but none is expected or accepted. Naaman is allowed to take some the earth back to his home so that he may make sacrifice only to the Lord God.

The psalmist's praise is for the God whose truth, justice, love, and salvation are known. It is the Lord who gives victory and reveals his justice to all the nations.

In the second reading Paul reminds his readers that the gospel he preaches emphasizes that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead. On this account Paul suffers, even being chained at times, and yet is confident that when we die with Jesus we will have life with him, and if we persevere we shall reign with him. But if we deny him he will deny us.

In the Gospel Jesus meets ten lepers and sends them to see the priests. They realize on the way that they are healed but only the Samaritan returns, gratefully giving loud praises to God. Jesus asks, where the other nine are and then pronounces this one to be saved.



**O Father, Son, and Spirit, our God, We praise and magnify your word!**

Naaman returns to Elisha, the psalmist returns to his praises, Paul reminds us that Jesus returned to life, and the Samaritan returns in grateful acknowledgment of his healing. We have returned to Church this morning but have we brought our gift of praise? Are we singing joyfully? Are we open to the Word that leads us along the right paths? Are we receiving the Living Bread, that brings us light and life? Are we continually returning to the Lord in a spirit of thankfulness? Or are we simply taking the graces and gifts the God has bestowed upon us for granted?

Similar to the characters in today's reading we too are receivers. We receive from God the gift of normal and natural life; the gift of new life in Christ; and even the gift of healing when the wounds of sin prevent us from living that new life. The characters are also people of simplicity who exemplify true joy, who give light to the paths we walk, who see a splendid goal and a boundless future. They have made their faith a focus point and recognize the quick passing satisfaction of selfishness and vanity for what it is. The essence of living, they have found, is not to waste your life; find ways to make it bear fruit; learn how to give it so that it is not consumed by misuse.

Christian morality is not a titanic effort of the will, the effort of someone who decides to be consistent and succeeds, a solitary challenge in the face of the world....it is simply a heartfelt response.....it is a revolution; it is not a never falling down but an always getting up again. Jesus is encountered, just as two thousand years ago, in a human presence, the Church, the company of those he assimilates to himself, his Body, the sign and sacrament of his Presence..... (Pope Francis when he was Bishop Bergoglio)