

The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity YEAR C October 9, 2016



It's not the first time the Lectionary has brought us face to face with the scandalous inclusivity of the Gospel, but that's the thread running through all of this week's readings. As tempting as it may be to find ways to draw lines and keep some people out for whatever reason, the Scriptures do not allow us that luxury – and, in truth, our world desperately needs us to be people who, like Christ, embrace, include and welcome all people indiscriminately.

May our worship this week lead us into the scandalous inclusivity of Christ again – and there find a welcome not just for ourselves, but for all.

INTRODUCTIONS

For use by lectors, in order of service, parish bulletins and magazines

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7: Jeremiah encourages the exiles in Babylon to settle into their new country, to build homes and live there among the Babylonian people and to work for the prosperity of their new land.

OR **2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c**: Naaman, the Aramean commander, is healed of his skin affliction after reluctantly obeying Elisha's instruction to wash in the Jordan River seven times.

Psalms 66:1-12: A call for all the earth to praise the God who rules over all, and for all nations to bless God.

OR **Psalms 111**: A Psalm of celebration for God's mighty acts, and for God's miraculous, merciful and compassionate acts on behalf of God's people.

2 Timothy 2:8-15: Although Paul is imprisoned for preaching the Gospel of Christ's resurrection, the Gospel itself is not imprisoned. God offers life to those who die with Christ, and God remains always faithful, which is why Paul encourages Timothy to remind people of these things and to continue to serve and teach faithfully.

Luke 17:11-19: Jesus sends ten men with a skin disease to show themselves to the priests and they are healed as they go, but only one, a Samaritan, returns to give thanks.

[Click here to view the readings](#)

http://bible.oremus.org/?show_adj=no&passages=Jeremiah%2029:%201,%204-7%0Acw%20Psalms%2066:%201-11%0A2%20Timothy%202:%208-15%0ALuke%2017:%2011-19

COLLECTS OF THE DAY

Collect One

O almighty and most merciful God,
of thy bountiful goodness keep us, we beseech thee,
from all things that may hurt us;
that we, being ready both in body and soul,
may cheerfully accomplish those things

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that thou wouldest have done;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Collect Two

Almighty God,
whose Holy Spirit equips your Church with a rich variety of gifts:
Grant us so to use them that, living the gospel of Christ
and eager to do your will,
we may share with the whole creation in the joys of eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 1

Heavenly Father, when we wrestle with you like Jacob did, you wrestle back. As we seek to know you and love you by your given name, bless us, for you are unlike every other person in our lives.

Loving Christ: **Help us share the faith.**

Almighty God, write your covenant on our hearts with the certainty of your love, no matter how far we wander away. The seal of your good promise for us is forgiveness, a new life, a holy walk with you and with your saints of today.

Loving Christ: **Help us share the faith.**

Holy Spirit, watch over us like a mother with her new born child, for we need you every hour.

Loving Christ: **Help us share the faith.**

Holy Spirit, as we seek to observe the commandments of God written on our hearts, make your words as sweet as honey, your ways a daily delight.

Loving Christ: **Help us share the faith.**

Lord God Almighty, guide the preachers of your Word, that all may speak with sound doctrine, based on the Holy Scriptures.

Loving Christ: **Help us share the faith.**

Lord Jesus Christ, help us pray always and never lose heart. And if we do lose heart, restore us quickly with an outpouring of your love.

Loving Christ: **Help us share the faith.**

Out of love for others, hear us name those in need of healing, that they may know you care for them like an only child _____.

Loving Christ: **Help us share the faith.**

Listening God, hear our prayers. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 2

Presider or deacon

For all who need healing, let us offer prayers in the name of the Lord.

Deacon or other leader

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For N our bishop and N our presbyter, for this holy gathering, and for the people of God in every place.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peoples of all nations
and for those seeking refuge.
Lord, have mercy.

For good weather, abundant fruits of the earth and peaceful times.
Lord, have mercy.

For our *city* and those who live in it and for
our families, companions, and all those we
love.
Lord, have mercy.

For all those in danger and need: the sick and the suffering, the poor and the oppressed,
the hungry and the homeless.
Lord, have mercy.

For the dying and the dead.
Lord, have mercy.

For our deliverance from all affliction, strife, and need.
Lord, have mercy.

Lifting our voices with all creation, with St— — — and all the saints, let us
offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.
To you, O Lord.

Presider

God the font of all life, hear the prayers we offer this day
and help all peoples in their weakness to approach you in faith; through Jesus Christ our
Lord.
Amen.

POST COMMUNION

God our Father,
whose Son, the light unfailing,
has come from heaven to deliver the world
from the darkness of ignorance:
Let these holy mysteries open the eyes of our understanding
that we may know the way of life, and walk in it without stumbling;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYERS

God of power and justice,
like Jeremiah you weep over those
who wander from you,
turn aside to other gods,

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and enter into chaos and destruction.
By your tears and through your mercy,
teach us your ways
and write them on our hearts
so that we may follow faithfully
the path you show us. Amen.

Friends in Christ,
God invites us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers
as dear to us as our own needs.
Loving our neighbors as ourselves,
we offer our thanksgivings and our petitions
on behalf of the church and the world.
Hear our prayers, God of power,
and through the ministry of your Son
free us from the grip of the tomb,
that we may desire you as the fullness of life
and proclaim your saving deeds to all the world. Amen.

As you heard the prayer of Isaac and Rebekah, O God,
and guided them in the way of your love,
so listen now to those who call upon you.
Move us to praise your gracious will,
for in Christ Jesus you have saved us from the deeds of death
and opened for us the hidden ways of your love.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord God, friend of those in need,
your Son Jesus has untied our burdens
and healed our spirits.
We lift up the prayers of our hearts for those still burdened,
those seeking healing,
those in need within the church and the world.
Hear our prayers
that we may love you with our whole being
and willingly share the concerns of our neighbors. Amen.

Creator God,
you call us to love and serve you
with body, mind, and spirit
through loving your creation
and our sisters and brothers.
Open our hearts in compassion
and receive these petitions
on behalf of the needs of the church and the world.

Holy One,
hear our prayers and make us faithful stewards
of the fragile bounty of this earth
so that we may be entrusted with the riches of heaven. Amen.
We praise your abiding guidance, O God,
for you sent us Jesus, our Teacher and Messiah,

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to model for us the way of love for the whole universe.
We offer these prayers of love
on behalf of ourselves and our neighbors,
on behalf of your creation and our fellow creatures.

Loving God,
open our ears to hear your word
and draw us closer to you,
that the whole world may be one with you
as you are one with us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
God of mercy and healing,
you who hear the cries of those in need,
receive these petitions of your people
that all who are troubled
may know peace, comfort, and courage.

Life-giving God,
heal our lives,
that we may acknowledge your wonderful deeds
and offer you thanks from generation to generation
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
God of salvation,
who sent your Son to seek out and save what is lost,
hear our prayers
on behalf of those who are lost in our day,
receiving these petitions and thanksgivings
with your unending compassion.

Redeeming Sustainer,
visit your people
and pour out your strength and courage upon us,
that we may hurry to make you welcome
not only in our concern for others,
but by serving them
generously and faithfully in your name. Amen.

Wholeness of the sick and Home of the exile,
give us grace to seek the well-being
of those among whom we live,
so that all people may come to know
the healing of your love
and new voices join to give you thanks in Jesus Christ. Amen.

In your love, O God of hosts,
your people find healing.
Grant that the pains of our journey may not obscure
the presence of Christ among us,
but that we may always give thanks for your healing power
as we travel on the way to your kingdom.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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O God of compassion,
through the witness of a captive maidservant
you healed Naaman in the waters of the Jordan.
Through Jesus you healed the lepers.
Heal us so that we may follow Christ with joy,
giving thanks with all our being. Amen.

LECTIONARY NOTES

REFLECTIONS ON THEME:

This week the theme could be called “The Liberated Gospel”! The thread running through all of the readings is about “outsiders” being included in God’s grace and among God’s people – or of God’s people making themselves at home with those with whom they would normally not have associated. Jeremiah encourages the exiles to settle in Babylon, and Elisha heals a gentile soldier. Both Psalms call all the earth and all people to join in the praise of God. Jesus heals a group of men with skin diseases, including a despised Samaritan, and only the ‘outsider’ Samaritan returns to give thanks. And Paul celebrates the Gospel that is not imprisoned, but, through God’s faithfulness is available to all. It’s a week to celebrate the indiscriminate, all-encompassing love, grace and life of God, and to hear the call to live this radical inclusivity in our times and circumstances.

CONNECTING WITH LIFE:

GLOBAL APPLICATION: As author Brian McLaren notes in his book *A New Kind Of Christianity*, we all woke up this morning in a world where religious conflict threatens the peace and survival of the entire planet, and in which militaristic radicals have the weaponry to destroy us all. In such a world religious exclusivity and finger-pointing is more than just an act of immaturity. It is a very dangerous way to live – as was illustrated by the threat of a Florida pastor to burn the Quran, and the reaction to his plan. In the midst of this we are challenged by a Jesus who was scandalously inclusive and who crossed all sorts of lines in order to draw circles around everyone. The only ones who were shut out of Jesus’ embrace, were (and are) those who choose to exclude themselves – and even they continue to be loved and accepted by God. In a world where we define ourselves according to nationality, race, skin colour, gender, sexual orientation, economic status, educational level, language and so much more – and use these distinctions to justify everything from killing to exploitation, from stereotyping to the threat of hell – we desperately need those who will bravely follow Christ in the act of making outsiders insiders, and embracing even the ones we most struggle to love. This is not just an act of personal spiritual obedience. It is a world-changing commitment that has economic, political, environmental, and even medical consequences.

LOCAL APPLICATION: If the Church is to retain any prophetic voice in our current era, it must relearn the radical inclusivity of Christ. Contrary to the ‘popular’ version of the ‘Gospel’ that makes Christianity an exclusive enclave for those who have prayed the right prayer, or who agree to the right theological ideas, the faith of those who follow Christ must be one that opens its arms to all others. This means that, as many in the emerging church conversation have suggested, we need to move from a process that goes from believing to behaving to belonging, to the reverse process of offering belonging first (with no strings attached), and then allowing our relationships to influence behaving and ultimately lead to faith – or believing. We need to become indiscriminate about who we serve, love, give to, include and bless. We must refuse to judge or disassociate from others on the basis of any false distinctions. We can no longer allow a word like ‘Muslim’ to become an insult, but

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must rather honour those who follow this faith with sincerity and commitment. We can no longer allow our faith to lead us into arrogance, dominance, exploitation or dismissal of others. This means that in every community, we cannot avoid making ourselves at home among those who we would naturally avoid. What this means for your Church you will recognise very quickly when you identify those who are missing from your Sunday gatherings, but who you can't help but notice as you pass them on the street during the week.

SERMON OUTLINE

Lk 17:11-19:- The 10 Lepers....

Jesus travelling south *to Jerusalem along the border btw Samaria & Galilee...* There he met a mixed group of Jews & Samaritan - their ancient feud forgotten in their suffering...

I. The LEPERS - required to live in isolation - sad plight...

a) their Condition - Leprosy - 2 types...

i) nasty superficial skin disease - itchy & painful...

ii) terrible ailment which ate away the skin - not only was it

corrosive, it was also **contagious**... **Leviticus 13** required such to *live outside the camp* - away from family & friends

b) their Cry - not *unclean, unclean* - as required by Law, but *Jesus, Master, have pity on us* - knew who to turn to - who could help.. Note the significance of the words used!

c) their Cure - wonderfully *they were cleansed*...

II. The LORD - who met them in their hour of need...

a) his Command - *Go show yourselves to the priest* - required by Leviticus 14... Proved their faith in Jesus - *as they went* - set out in faith - obedient to X's command - *they were cleansed*...

b) his Comment - only *one of them* when he saw he was healed came back praising God in a loud voice. *he threw himself at*

Jesus' feet & thanked him, & he was a Samaritan > Jesus asked "*Were not all 10 cleansed?*"... *Was no one found to give thanks to God except this foreigner?*

All 10 **experienced trust** in J's power to heal - but only 1 **expressed thanks** - the most unlikely one! The Samaritan was fully/spiritually cleansed.. *Your faith has made you well* (AV whole).. Faith was the key - may we make full proof of our faith!

By Norman Porteous

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ONLINE SERMON SOURCES

The test of all happiness is gratitude - Episcopal Church, Sermons that work
The Rev. Dr. Joseph S. Pagano is associate rector at St. Anne's Church in Annapolis, MD.
Dr. Pagano's ministry at St. Anne's is focused on Adult Christian Formation,
Outreach, and Pastoral Care.

<http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/stw/2016/09/02/the-test-of-all-happiness-is-gratitude-proper-23c/>

"Made whole by faith," the Rev. Ken Kesselus, Sermons that Work, Episcopal Digital Network

<http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/stw/2013/09/23/21-pentecost-proper-23-c-2013/>

"Improvisational Gratitude," the Rev. Dr. Robert Dunham, *Day 1*

http://day1.org/1063-improvisational_gratitude

"Keeping the Faith in Babylon," Sermon & Reflections for Ordinary 28, Barry Robinson, *Keeping the Faith in Babylon*. At Richard J. Fairchild's Sermons & Sermon Lectionary Resources.

<http://www.rockies.net/~spirit/sermons/c-or28-keeping.php>

A little is a lot. Richard Fairchild, Rockies Net - scroll down

<http://www.rockies.net/~spirit/sermons/c-or27sesn.php>

CHILDREN

Worshiping with Children, Ordinary 28C. Including children in the congregation's worship, using the Revised Common Lectionary, Carolyn C. Brown

<http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.co.uk/2010/09/year-c-28th-sunday-of-ordinary-time.html>

"Sermon of the Week," / "Mensajes para ninos," Sermons 4 Kids, Charles Kirkpatrick, Object Lessons & Children's Sermons, Coloring Pages, Puzzles. Sermons4Kids.com.

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/>

Story for Children's Worship and Family Activity, Ordinary 28, at *word-sunday.com: A Catholic Resource for the Lectionary* by Larry Broding.

Ministry Matters

<http://www.word-sunday.com/index.html>