



Church At Home
St. Timothy's Lutheran Church – Pembroke, Ontario
Pentecost 18 **October 12, 2025**

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

The Holy Gospel: Luke 17:11-19

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you O Lord.

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ.

Homily

I greet you in the name of Jesus, our risen Saviour. Amen.

There is a ritual which I undertake each day when arriving home at noon hour is: I check the mailbox for mail. I am curious what the mail person has delivered. Often Charlotte has already gotten to the mailbox first and so I get to ask the question, "Was there any mail?" To which I hear, "Yes, bills!"

I suppose I still live in the past when interesting mail would be delivered to our house such as, letters from Mother's aunts and uncles. Oh, they were always so newsy. If there was an upcoming birthday in the house, one could always count on a major flood of mail. Receiving birthday cards was always so special. And if you hosted a party, gave a birthday gift or wedding present – thankyou notes and cards would find their way to the mailbox too.

Times have changed. Not many folks mail birthday cards any longer. If you belong to Facebook, you will receive messages from your many friends telling you to "enjoy your day!" And if you have email – you will have to open your email to see if a card pops out! As far as thankyou notes – they seem to become a thing of the past. Very few come even by the way of Facebook and email – which for me is a sad thing. I believe it is important to write a thank you when

someone does something kind – that is why I write them. I know, many of you have received them because you have thanked me for my thank you note.

Thankyous are important and in reading today's lesson, I have to wonder if Jesus was hurt, or a little peeved, or disappointed, or even angry from the reaction of nine men who were made well and said and did nothing? I wonder.

So, let me back up just a bit and see what we might notice together.

In this relatively short story from Luke's Gospel, Jesus is again in a border region, again crossing boundaries and wandering where he probably shouldn't go, and again healing people with whom he has no business interacting. This time he runs into a group of ten. These ten are lepers. This disease made them ritually unclean, which meant that they couldn't participate in the Temple services and rituals at the center of their faith. And not able to practice their faith, these men stood on the outside of their community as well, likely feeling alone, abandoned, and desperate. And so, as St. Luke tells us, when these ten men realize Jesus is coming near them, they call out to him, not simply for comfort or companionship or someone to listen to them, but instead asking if he would have mercy on them and cure them.

Jesus then tells them to: "Go and show yourselves to the priests. And as they went, they were made clean." And, indeed, as they travel they *are* made well, cleansed of their sickness.

If you noticed, the nine did nothing wrong. In fact, they did exactly as they were told and if we can presume for a moment; enjoyed healing.

When one of them notices he turns back to express his gratitude, falling at Jesus' feet in a posture of worship to give thanks. Jesus gets over his disappointment of the other nine pretty quickly and shifts his attention to this one man. He blesses him again. Jesus invited the man to rise and go on his way saying his faith had made him well.

This story hinges on the interpretation of one Greek work: *sozo* (*sodzo*).

It can be translated as "made well" in the sense of being healed as in our lesson. It can also be translated as "saved" in the sense of being brought through danger. And it can be translated as "made whole" in the sense of being completed and made to be what you were meant to be all along.

So, ten were indeed made clean, but only one was saved. Ten were made clean, but only one was made whole. Ten were made clean, but only one recognized it and gave thanks and, in giving thanks, became what God had intended all along.

Isn't that pretty much the secret to life: *gratitude*. Noticing grace, seeing goodness, paying attention to healing, stopping to take in blessing, and then giving thanks for the ordinary and extraordinary graces of our life together. This is the secret to a good life.

I know you have heard this before from me. Actually, it was in the Thanksgiving sermon of 2016 that I had you practice the words: I am grateful. The word grateful found its way into the family

room and many of you still use this word today as you greet friends. You see, you have found the secret to a good life.

Noticing blessing and giving thanks can seem like such small things yet they make all the difference in your life and the life of others around you. I know because I have seen it in the face of your children, in the very ill recognizing the extraordinary care of a nurse, in your eyes as they touch the eyes of the one you love so deeply.

This gratitude which restores and heals and saves is available to us at every moment of our lives. In our health or with those who are caring for us. In those near and far; present or passed who have contributed to who we have become. In our committee meetings and our fellowship time on Sunday we share in this congregation. In the rain and sunshine and even in the soon to be snow of Pembroke we enjoy. When we open our eyes to look, blessing is all around.

My friends in Christ! Gratitude, I believe makes us complete – it transforms us and makes us whole.

The one who returned to give thanks knew that. Jesus knows that and I know you know that too.

I am grateful today. Grateful for my family and I am grateful for each of you in my life. I am grateful for your generosity and your abundant faith, and for your witness to the grace of God that not only showers us with blessing but gives us the eyes to see it and hearts eager to respond in gratitude.

On this Thanksgiving Day let us show our gratitude to God by turning back and saying thanks; by telling God – “I am grateful!”

Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught us.....

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you,
The Lord look upon you with favour and give you (+) peace. Amen.

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STTLC Communiqué

In Our Prayers Today.....

Lila Martinat, Irlavere Tubbe, Bobby Keuhl, Adele Krieger, Tracy Schori, and Christa Reitlingshoefer.

The Thanksgiving Food Drive Challenge in support of St. Joseph's Food Bank will begin Sunday, October 12th and continue through to Sunday, October 19th. A table will be set up at the back of the church to receive your items. Let's see how many items can be collected on these two Sundays! Please ensure that you check the expiry dates on all donated items. The Witness Committee thanks you in advance for your generosity in providing to those in need.

