



Church At Home
St. Timothy's Lutheran Church – Pembroke, Ontario
Pentecost 20 **October 11, 2026**

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

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."

Homily

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

A person gives you a gift and then it starts.....

"Oh, you shouldn't have. It's too nice. It's too expensive. I don't deserve it. You shouldn't have bothered...And then sometimes we would like to say what Sheldon of the Big Bang Theory is known to utter: "You bought me a present? Why would you do such a thing? Oh, I know you think you're being generous, but the foundation of gift giving is reciprocity. You haven't given me a gift. You've given me an obligation." (Sheldon Cooper, Big Bang Theory)

Perhaps our culture needs to relearn how to be thankful. As we know, thanksgiving is a sign of appreciation and gratitude. Many adults are quick to point out to the younger generation that people ought to be thankful, but honestly, thanksgiving is a difficult attitude to grow and cultivate. We know caring people who know how to say thank you, but gratitude is a difficult attitude to command. In fact, gratitude can't be commanded.

Luke relates a thanksgiving story, because Luke knows that thanksgiving is not inborn, but rather we teach gratitude.

Jesus and his friends are on their last leg of a journey from Galilee to Jerusalem. Ten lepers call out to Jesus. They keep their distance. Society of the day considered lepers outcasts. They were ritually unclean and believed to be contagious. Some thought wicked spirits possessed

lepers. They were isolated and required to beg for food because lepers could not find work. They were in essence quarantined from their family and friends and normal life, unable to return home even for holidays.

A remarkable fact about leper colonies is nationality knows no boundaries. They included both Jews and Samaritans. It seems misery loves company. Samaritans and Jews would have nothing to do with one another. Yet this group roamed together as their disease united them.

When Jesus healed other lepers, he actually touched them (Matthew 8:2, Mark 1:40). Here in this story though, they didn't want to come too close; all ten acknowledge Jesus as "Master" and Jesus tells them to go to the temple for examination by the priests and then receive certification because they were healed.

All ten were healed, even the nine who didn't return to say "thanks." What made the Samaritan different? I believe it is simple: he noticed. Now, I am not saying the other nine didn't notice but the Samaritan saw something spectacular and don't you find when you notice something spectacular it is hard not to say something.

"I've got good news, I got a promotion."

"He proposed; look at my ring."

"I just saw the best movie."

"We are going to have a baby!"

I think it was like that for the Samaritan; he realized he had been healed; he couldn't help but turn back and share his joy and thanksgiving with Jesus. He could see that God was working through this man called Jesus, in a way beyond what he thought at first.

Thanksgiving and gratitude is like that. When it's genuine, it's spontaneous, even involuntary – you recognize you've been blessed and can't help but share your joy through thanksgiving.

So the Samaritan turns back to say "thanks." He knows he's been given a gift and can't help turning around to say something and in doing so he's given a second gift, as he leaves his encounter with Jesus not only healed but also blessed – blessed in his own recognition of healing, blessed at being drawn into deeper relationship with the one he thanks, blessed at hearing himself commended for having great faith.

Imagine the difference that must have made in his life. He, a Samaritan, being commended by a Jewish rabbi for having great faith; faith sufficient to effect healing.

That's the way thanksgiving always works – in giving thanks for a gift given we are blessed again.

This is how God gives. No strings attached. No asterisks or fine print. No deals. Jesus gives unconditionally. It's not a deal, it's a gift. Undeserved. Free. In a word: love. God loves the world so deeply that God gave us Jesus. And Jesus gives himself on the cross, selflessly, in utter humility for the world, for you. A gift given; wrapped in swaddling clothes, hung on a cross, raised from the dead. And with this gift of Jesus we are blessed to be a blessing to others.

My Friends in Christ. What have you noticed in your life that was spectacular? When was the last time you noticed, turned and thanked God? Today or tomorrow when you gather with family and friends at the dinner table; share with each other what you have noticed in your life and are thankful for; some of the places you have encountered God's blessings and turned around and gave thanks to our Creator.

And now, I want to share with you that I have noticed you this year. I have noticed the way you have supported myself and my family. I have noticed the way you care for each other in times of sadness and in times of happiness. I have noticed when you say "yes" when you could very easily say "no". I have noticed when you reach out to those in need in our community and around the world through the Food Bank and CLWR. I have noticed your love for St. Timothy's, the Eastern Synod, the National Church and your Lord. I am thankful for each of you, our life together, the community of Pembroke, Renfrew County and the world we share. I thank God for each of you and the way you have blessed me. If you were to ask me right now – how are you, Pastor? You know what my answer will be, "I am grateful!"

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.

Dismissal

Go out in Joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.



STTLC Communiqué

In Our Prayers Today.....Casey Wierzbicki, Joanna Spencer, Marie Lenser, Mike Harrington, Lila Martinat, Irlavere Tubbe, Tracy Schori and Christa Reitlingshoefer.

Offering Envelope Box Set Review.... The Finance Committee is issuing a survey letter to those who received a 2026 box set of offering envelopes. You are asked to identify how you would like to make future offerings starting in 2027. Options are described in the letter. Responses are due by October 13 to the Church Office or on-line using a provided QR code. Thank you.

Homemade frozen apple pies can be purchased today in Jubilee Hall following the service. Cost is \$15.00 each or 2 single serving pies for the same price! Proceeds will help off-set the cost of the new tables for Jubilee Hall. Thank you for your support.

Thanksgiving Food Drive ends next Sunday.

