

The Living Word

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

9 October 2022

First Reading 2 Kgs 5:14-17

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.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 97:1-4. R. see 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 Tm 2:8-13

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.

Gospel Acclamation 1 Thes 5:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

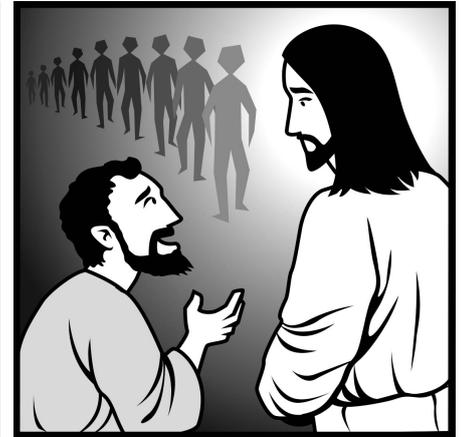
For all things give thanks to God, because this is what he expects of you in Christ Jesus.

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 17:11-19

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.'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Like the other nine lepers, the Samaritan was cured of his skin disease. Unlike the other nine, he thanked Jesus and expressed faith in Jesus as the agent of his divine healing. Only to him did Jesus say: 'Your faith has brought you salvation.'

So, 'salvation' is evidently more than physical cure. Every aspect of this man's personality, bodily, socially, relationship with God, was made whole. Being brought to this 'holistic' situation we call 'salvation'.

This Gospel assures us that there is nothing which makes me 'taboo' to Jesus. Jesus is only too willing to reach out to that part of me which is dis-eased, ill-at-ease with myself, other people, creation, or God. Having faith in Him allows the full force of His love to heal me, to take effect.

We could pause for a moment to pray that we might join the Samaritan walking along the road to final salvation, praising God.

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Pope Saint John XXIII was born Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli, in 1881; one of fourteen children born to a family of sharecroppers in the Italian region of Lombardy. He was ordained a priest in 1904 and served in many parts of the world including France, Greece, Turkey and Bulgaria. In 1953 he was made a cardinal by Pope Pius XII and named the Patriarch of Venice. On October 28 1958 he was elected Pope at the age of 76 and became the first pope in more than 500 years to take the papal name of "John". Soon after his election as pope, John XXIII called for a general council of cardinals and bishops, and after two years of preparations the historic Second Vatican Council was opened on October 11 1962. John XXIII died from stomach cancer on 3 June 1963 before the conclusion of the council. Affectionately known as "Good Pope John", John XXIII was canonized by Pope Francis on 27 April 2014.

Crossword

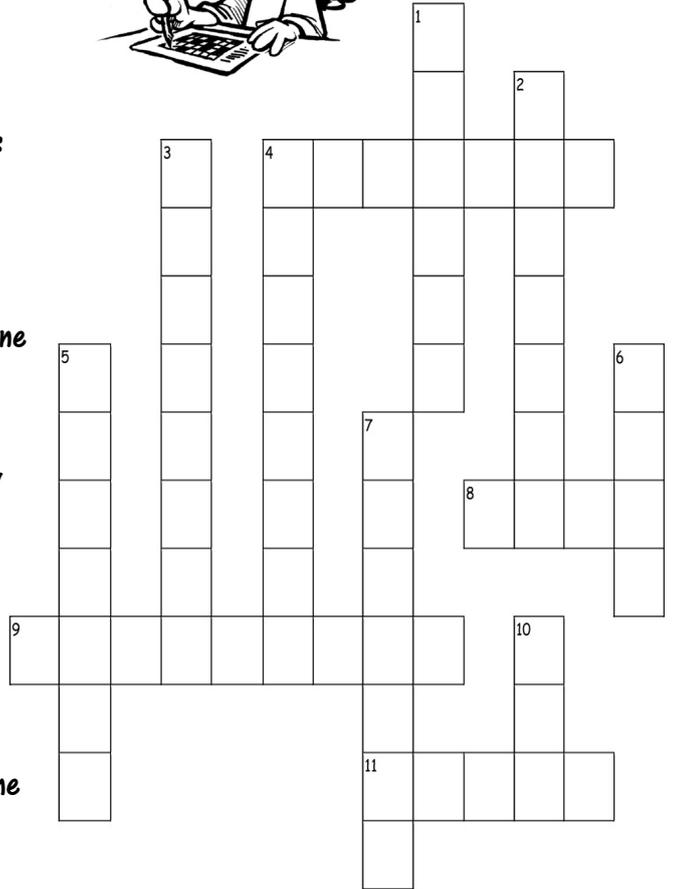


Down

- 1: cured, made better
- 2: a small town
- 3: the measurement between two points
- 4: speaking loudly
- 5: lepers suffer from this disease
- 6: feel sorry for someone
- 7: people who perform religious rites
- 10: Jesus sent this many lepers to see the priests

Across

- 4: A Samaritan comes from this country
- 8: the appendages on the end of our legs
- 9: someone from a foreign country
- 11: to show gratitude



Fill in the missing letters, then match them up by number in the large boxes to reveal the message of this story.

- Jesus was on h₂s way to Jeru₁₀alem.
- Te₈ lepers asked Jesus to take pi₅y on them.
- Jesus told them to s₆ow themselves to the pri₄sts.
- One of the men disco₃ered he was heale₁₅, and returned to Jesus, giving praise to ₁od.
- He b₁₂wed down at Jesus' fee₁₁ and than₉ed him.
- Jesus then told him, "et up and g₁₄.
Your f₇ith has made you well."

