

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according  
to Luke.

*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.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

9 OCTOBER 2022

## WORD OF GOD CANNOT BE CHAINED

While the people of Israel rejoiced in the  
unique call they had received, their experience  
of the world taught them that people of  
goodwill and faith could be found in other  
places and cultures. Called to be a light to  
the nations they knew that sometimes it was  
others who were light to them. Naaman the  
Syrian general was prepared to risk trusting  
the word of his wife's Israelite servant in order  
to be healed of leprosy. He had come to Elisha  
with gifts to ensure he would be healed but he  
leaves not only healed but richer in faith.

In a similar vein, it is a heretical Jew, a  
Samaritan, who has the eyes to see what the  
living God is offering in Jesus. He alone has  
the openness of heart to give thanks for the  
precious gift he has received through regaining  
his health. All the lepers were healed but only  
one has been saved. The outsider is the one  
who has been saved by means of his faith.

The letter to Timothy reflects on the fact that  
the Good News cannot be chained or confined.  
Even though Paul and other early Christian  
missionaries experienced opposition, hardship  
and imprisonment for the sake of the Gospel,  
they knew that their efforts were not in vain.  
The message of Jesus was not to be confined to  
Israel and Timothy is encouraged not to lose  
heart because being immersed in the death of  
Jesus and in his sufferings means sharing in  
his resurrected life as well.

## FIRST READING

2 Kings 5:14-17

A reading from the second book of the Kings  
*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.'

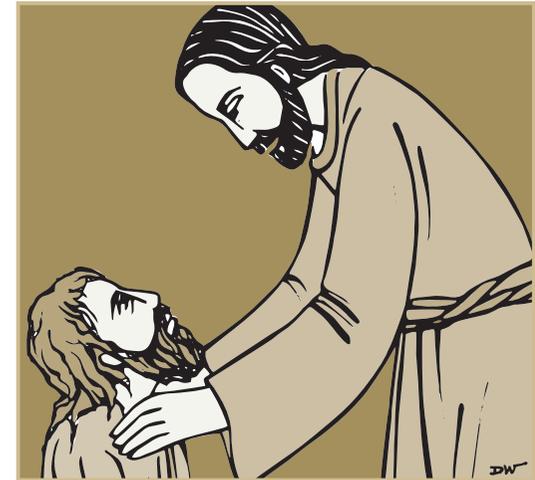
■ The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 97:1-4. R. cf. 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 Tim 2:8-13

A reading from the second letter of St Paul  
to Timothy

*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.

■ The word of the Lord.

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