

21st Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. ² Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. ³ She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."

When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me."

But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean." But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?" So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company; he came and stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel."

Psalm 111

Praise the Lord!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

² Great are the works of the Lord,
studied by all who delight in them.

³ Full of honor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴ He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;
the Lord is gracious and merciful.

⁵ He provides food for those who fear him;
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

⁶ He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the heritage of the nations.

⁷ The works of his hands are faithful and just;

all his precepts are trustworthy.
⁸ They are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.
⁹ He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name.
¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever.

2 Timothy 2:8-15

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel,
⁹ for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word
of God is not chained. ¹⁰ Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they
may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. ¹¹ The saying is sure:
If we have died with him, we will also live with him;
¹² if we endure, we will also reign with him;
if we deny him, he will also deny us;
¹³ if we are faithless, he remains faithful—
for he cannot deny himself.
¹⁴ Remind them of this, and warn them before God^[a] that they are to avoid wrangling over
words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. ¹⁵ Do your best to present
yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly
explaining the word of truth.

Luke 17:11-19

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee.
¹² As he entered a village, ten leper^l approached him. Keeping their distance, ¹³ they called
out, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” ¹⁴ When he saw them, he said to them, “Go
and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were made clean. ¹⁵ Then one
of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. ¹⁶ He
prostrated himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Then Jesus
asked, “Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? ¹⁸ Was none of them
found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹ Then he said to him, “Get up
and go on your way; your faith has made you well.”