

The Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway Stavanger Congregation

Stavanger Anglicans' website:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/8466/>

Stavanger Anglicans on Facebook:

<https://m.facebook.com/stavangeranglicans/>

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Sunday 12 October 2025; Trinity 17

Menighetshus: 10.30

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jeremiah 29.1,4-7

Psalms 66.1-11

2 Timothy 2.8-15

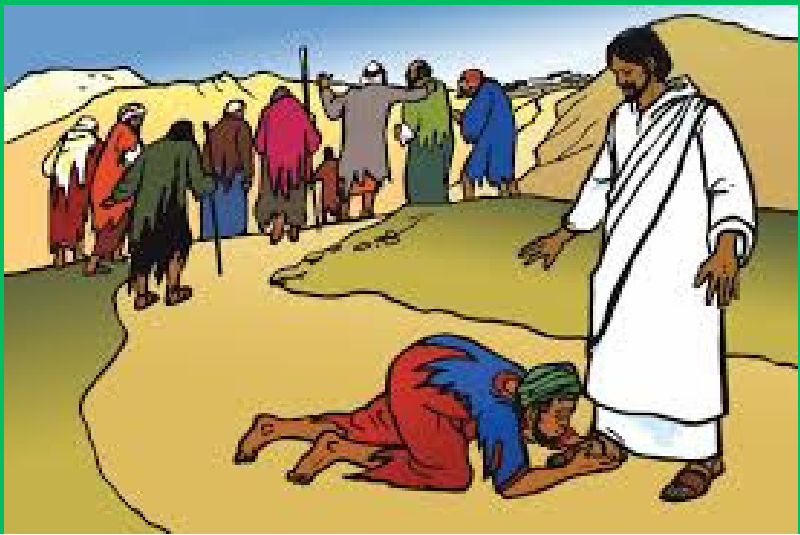
Luke 17.11-19

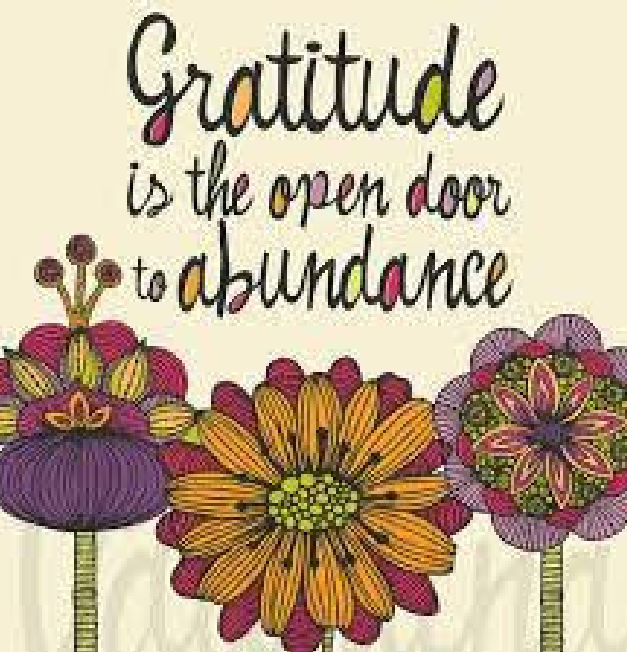
Reflection

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen

In today's Gospel, we hear of ten lepers who cry out to Jesus, "Master, have mercy on us!" In His compassion, the Lord sends them to show themselves to the priests, and as they go, they are made clean. Yet only one, a Samaritan, a foreigner, returns to give thanks and praise to God. And Jesus says to him, "Stand up and go; your faith has made you well."

This Gospel story is not only about gratitude; it is about recognizing God's mercy and responding with faith. And it speaks powerfully to us here in Norway, where we live in peace, security, and abundance.





The nine lepers who did not return were not ungrateful in heart, they were simply caught up in their new normal. They were healed, yes, but they did not pause to recognize the One who healed them.

How often can that happen to us?

We enjoy good health, family, and prosperity, but forget to say, "Thank you, Lord."

We wake to beauty each morning, the mountains, the sea, the quietness of Norway, and yet we forget to praise the One who sustains it all.

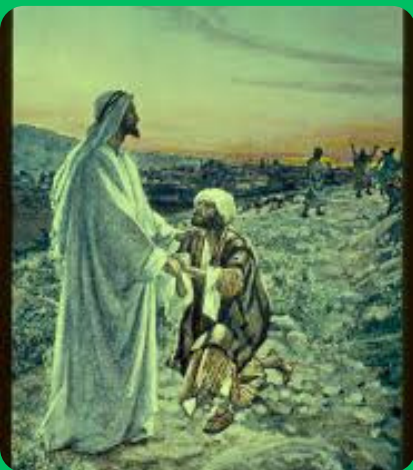
We are indeed blessed in this part of the world. Our homes are safe, our tables are full, our children go to school without fear. There are no bombs falling, no sirens wailing, no nights of terror. And yet, my friends, when life is peaceful and comfortable, it becomes easy to forget the Giver of every good gift.



Gratitude is the doorway to faith. Without it, our peace becomes empty comfort; with it, our peace becomes prayer. In this Gospel, it is the foreigner, the Samaritan, who returns to give thanks.

He represents those on the margins, those who know what suffering means.

Today, in Norway, we see new faces, refugees and asylum seekers arriving from lands torn by war and violence. They come carrying stories of fear and loss, but also a deep sense of gratitude for safety, for peace, for life itself.



Their thanksgiving is often more profound than ours. It reminds us that peace is not to be taken for granted, but to be celebrated and shared.

The grateful Samaritan teaches us that faith is not about where we come from, but about how we respond to grace. Sometimes it is the stranger who shows us how to find God again.

When Jesus says, “Your faith has made you well,” He uses a word that means more than physical healing, it means wholeness, salvation. Nine were healed, but only one was made whole. There is a difference between being healed and being saved, between having comfort and having faith. And that difference is thanksgiving. In our peaceful land, we may not need healing from war or hunger, but we do need healing from forgetfulness, from spiritual indifference, from the subtle illness of taking everything for granted.

“WHERE ARE THE
NINE?”

Thanksgiving is the cure.

When we give thanks, we become aware again of the Giver.

When we praise God, we rediscover joy, not because everything is perfect, but because God is present.

Dear friends, let us be the one who returns.

Let us be the ones who turn back, who kneel before Christ in gratitude for His mercy.

Let our worship today be more than ritual, let it be thanksgiving that shapes our lives.



Let us give thanks for peace, and let that thanksgiving move us to compassion.

Let us welcome the stranger with open hearts, remembering that in every refugee, Christ Himself comes to us.

Let our praise become the seed of peace, our gratitude the beginning of justice.

The Gospel reminds us that thanksgiving is not only polite, it is powerful. To praise God amid comfort is to remember that all we have is grace. To give thanks is to keep our hearts awake to mercy.

So today, as we gather at this altar, let us join the Samaritan in his return to Jesus. Let us fall at His feet in gratitude, for He has healed us, blessed us, and given us peace. And as we receive the Eucharist, which itself means thanksgiving, may we be renewed in faith, made whole in love, and sent forth to share the peace of Christ with all who come to our shores.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Contacts and Connections

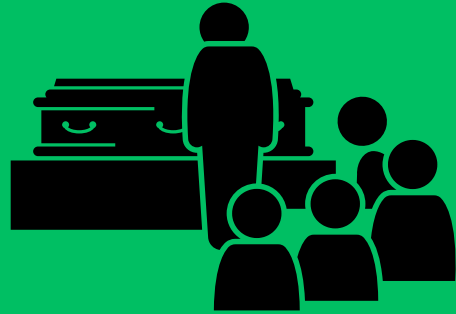


Father Martin

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For pastoral needs,
Baptisms
Blessing of Civil
Marriages
Funerals
Please contact the
Assistant Chaplain



Collect

Almighty God,
you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you:
pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself,
and so bring us at last to your heavenly city
where we shall see you face to face;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.



“WHERE ARE THE
NINE?”

Luke 17:11-19

Notices

Collection
offering via
v:pps

667359
Stavanger Anglicans

We are back at Menighetshus and we pay rentals.

Our finances are not looking good may you please help us by donating through VIPPS or Bank Account Number 3201 08 90631

Christmas Carols



The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols will take place on 23 December 2025 at Stavanger Cathedral. We would be grateful for recommendations of local beneficiaries, particularly organizations supporting children, to receive the proceeds from this service.



Tea/Coffee

After our Holy Communion service, everyone is warmly invited to stay behind for tea/coffee and fellowship. This is a lovely opportunity to share time together and strengthen our life as a church family

