

**Sunday 12 October 2025,
The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity**

Collect:

Gracious God,
you call us to fullness of life:
deliver us from unbelief
and banish our anxieties
with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Readings for this week:

2 Kings 5:1-13, 7-15c; Psalm 111; 2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19

Cures for leprosy provide one link between today's First Reading and the Gospel. Samaria also features in both episodes. Elisha's healing of the Syrian general, Namaan, operates on a number of levels. Opening in Syria, we hear that Namaan is both highly regarded by his king and a leper. He doesn't ask for healing for himself but does act upon the information given by an Israelite slave girl belonging to his wife, that there is a prophet in Samaria who could heal him. Elisha's power is then made manifest through the understated action of Namaan washing himself seven times in the Jordan. With the healing coming in this way the emphasis is taken away from Elisha to highlight the power of God. Namaan is not one of the chosen people, yet one of the continuing themes of both Old and New Testament is that outsiders (and Namaan is doubly an outside being both a foreigner and suffering from a serious illness) are drawn to God who responds with healing. Faith in God crosses boundaries. But, while this acceptance and healing is noteworthy, the most important point of the story is Namaan's confession: 'Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel.' Knowledge of God is accessible to all, even (especially) those outside the expected pool of believers. Psalm 111 acts as a fitting thanksgiving to the miracle of healing.

Paul's words, in our Second Reading, are meant to focus their recipient, Timothy, on the central tenets of faith that drive his ministry. This means never losing sight of Christ. Christ is at the heart of everything that Timothy should believe in, and everything he should do. Meanwhile, in the Gospel reading, we return to a healing of lepers, on the borders between Samaria and Galilee, at a time when Samaria has been excised from the Jewish state so that its people are now treated as outsiders. Once again we witness an undramatic healing, with the ten lepers being simply told to show themselves to the priests, to prove that they were whole and therefore allowed back into society, and experiencing healing on the way. Within this is the suggestion that healing has occurred because they demonstrated faith in Jesus by following his instructions. Following their healing, the outsider the Samaritan, who comes back to thank Jesus, shows us again, that God's kingdom is for all nations, not just the chosen people and we should never take God's grace for granted. Indeed, praise and thanksgiving should be central to our worship.

Lord, we pray that your grace
may always precede and follow us,
and make us continually to be given to all good works;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Readings for next week:

Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 121; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8
Trinity 18