

The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity Sunday
St. Luke 17:11-19
September 13th, 2020
Sts. Peter & Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, UAC
Simpsonville, SC
St. Michael and All Angels Evangelical Lutheran Mission, UAC
Augusta, GA
All Saints Evangelical Lutheran Mission, UAC
Myrtle Beach, SC
Pastor Jerald Dulas

Jesus, Master, Have Mercy on Us!

In Nomine Iesu!

In the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer in Pulpit before Sermon:

Lord God, heavenly Father, Who by Thy blessed Word and Thy Holy Baptism hast mercifully cleansed all who believe from the fearful leprosy of sin, and daily dost grant us Thy gracious help in all our need: We beseech Thee so to enlighten our hearts by Thy Holy Spirit, that we may never forget these Thy blessings, but ever live in Thy fear, and, trusting fully in Thy grace, with thankful hearts continually praise and glorify Thee; through Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, one true God, world without end. Amen.

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior + Jesus Christ. Amen.

We have a compassionate and merciful Lord! This has been evidenced by the Gospel reading during the last few Sundays. Last week, the Good Samaritan, our Lord + Jesus Christ, showed His compassion by bandaging the wounds that we have received on account of sin dwelling in this world and within us. The Sunday before that our Lord + Jesus had compassion and mercy on the deaf and mute man by sighing and speaking into his ears to “Ephphatha” that is, “be opened.” On the Eleventh Sunday after Trinity Sunday our Lord showed compassion and mercy to the tax collector by forgiving him the sins and justifying him when he confessed, “God be merciful to me, a sinner.” The Sunday before that our Lord + Jesus showed His compassion and mercy for Jerusalem as He wept over Jerusalem, even as the crowds shouted and praised Him over His entry. He entered into Jerusalem to offer up His life as a ransom for all, even the Jews who rejected Him and crucified Him on the tree of the holy cross.

So, we see that our Lord + Jesus is compassionate and merciful toward His creation. He created us and loves His creation. He wants only good things for us. In our self-righteousness and desire to be our own lords and rulers, mankind has continually rejected their Creator, and sought after other false gods with the false idea that these things will bring us joy, happiness, or comfort. We too often place our trust in our own abilities—our own righteousness—to save ourselves. We often get caught in the trap that just because we are “basically good people” there is worthiness in ourselves. However, we are worthy for none of the things which we possess, or for which we pray. We are granted them all account of our Lord’s mercy.

Remember that mercy is being treated in a way in which we do not deserve to be treated. So, when we say that our Lord + Jesus is merciful to us, He is treating us in a way in which we do not deserve. On account of our manifold sins and trespasses—on account of our daily breaking of the Law

of God in thoughts, words, and deeds, we deserve only our Lord's eternal wrath and displeasure. We are stained with the leprosy of sin, and we deserve it, because we do not fear, love and trust in the Triune Lord God above all things. We deserve the lot in which we find ourselves: filled with the leprosy of sin and death.

The Gospel from the Evangelist St. Luke presents us with ten men who are not only filled with the leprosy of sin, but are physically attacked by the disease of leprosy itself. They bear the due reward for their sin in their bodies. Their leprosy is on account of sin dwelling in the world, and especially in them. Leprosy was not just a disease that affected a person's body. The leper was cast out of the community. They were to live alone and not congregate with any other person, so that they would not spread the disease to other people. The law given by the Rabbis of the time was they were to not come any closer to another person than four paces—four steps. Here in the Gospel of the Evangelist St. Luke we have ten lepers who have ignored that rule of remaining alone and gathered together as a group, and one of them is a Samaritan.

Remember that the Jews hated the Samaritans. They were hated by the Jews because of their false worship. Jews did not associate with Samaritans, but here in this case one of the ten men who were lepers was a Samaritan. All animosity toward him for being a Samaritan is cast aside on account of the loneliness that being a leper spawned. These ten lepers who are supposed to be all alone by themselves, and who have gathered together approach the city that our Lord + Jesus is entering, and standing afar off cry out to the Lord, "+ Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

What does our Lord + Jesus do? He simply tells them to "Go show yourselves to the priests." In other healings of our Lord, like the one from a couple of weeks ago when He healed the deaf and mute man, our Lord would get personally involved with the person. He would touch them, or make some other kind of personal gesture showing that He was personally involved. He even healed a leper once by touching him. But not in this case. It is as if our Lord + Jesus has declared to them that their leprosy is already healed, for that is what a leper who had been cured of his leprosy was supposed to do. They were to go to the priest and offer a thank offering for being healed. The priest would confirm that the leprosy was cured and accept the thank offering from the cured person.

It may be a little difficult to grasp this from the perspective of the ten lepers when we have such a short reading, and the details are not laid out for us. Consider where our Lord + Jesus is and where He meets these ten lepers. The Evangelist St. Luke tells us that our Lord was between the regions of Samaria and Galilee—on the border (in the midst) of those two regions. Where are the lepers supposed to go in order to show themselves to the priests? They are to go to Jerusalem. In other words, the priests are not just in the next town. They have to travel through the region of Samaria and half of the region of Judea in order to get to Jerusalem. It would already take great faith on the part of the ten lepers to make this long trek into Jerusalem. It reminds me of Naaman the Syrian leper who came to Elisha to be healed, and was told to go and wash himself in the Jordan River seven times. Naaman went away mad because he thought it was a waste of time, until his servant convinced him otherwise. Here the ten lepers need no convincing, at least of which we are made aware.

They have seen and heard of the Lord's compassion and mercy. They must have otherwise they would not be crying out to the Lord + Jesus to have mercy on them. The reports about our Lord's compassion and mercy were well known. It was known to these ten lepers who cried out from afar, "+ Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" It was especially made known to them as they were going on their way to Jerusalem to show themselves to the priests and were healed as they went. Our Lord's compassion and mercy is known to us, too. He daily and richly forgives our sins in the holy, apostolic, and catholic Church in which we dwell. He has baptized us and washed us clean of the sin of leprosy at the holy font. He proclaims that our sins are forgiven through the mouth of His ministers when they proclaim that on account of His works and merits, we have forgiveness, life and salvation, and are

cured of the leprosy of sin by His grace and mercy. He feeds us with His very Body and Blood in bread and wine, providing us with the medicine to heal us of the leprosy of sin and death. He gives His life as a ransom for us, in order that we may be healed and forgiven.

Our Lord + Jesus shows us daily His compassion and mercy for us whenever we hear the sweet Gospel message that our sins have been forgiven by Him. He has healed us of our leprous condition of sin by showing us that He is our High Priest in whom we can show ourselves and receive confirmation that by His perfect obedience to the Law of God and His sacrifice on the tree of the holy cross that we have been healed of all of our iniquities. For this we can offer to Him the sacrifice of praise—the thanksgiving from our lips that He has showed us compassion and mercy.

There are many who forget to give thanks to the Lord + Jesus for all of His mercy toward us and mankind. There were ten lepers who were healed. Only one returned to give glory to the Lord God, and he was a Samaritan—a foreigner. His faith healed him. It was not the cause of his healing. His healing was not reward for his faith. His faith healed him, because his faith was in the Healer Who could heal not only his physical leprosy, but also his spiritual leprosy of sin. His faith saves in the same way that our faith saves. Our faith trusts in the Lord + Jesus and His mercy and compassion for us. Our faith clings to the Lord + Jesus Who suffered and died for us after fulfilling the Law of God on our behalf. Our faith justifies, because it trusts that One Person Who can heal us, will do it out of His great love, compassion and mercy for us.

We have a compassionate and merciful Lord! He has shown us His mercy by suffering and dying for us, and by proclaiming us forgiven for His sake. He has healed us of the leprosy of sin. Therefore, my dear friends, let us offer up unto Him the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; giving Him thanks for healing us of all of our iniquities. Let us come to this altar and kneel before Him and worship Him, and share in the meal which gives to us remission of sins—the thank offering we share with our High Priest, and each other, as we eat and drink with Him in holy communion and blessed fellowship. In the Name of our Lord + Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer in Pulpit after Sermon:

Lord God, Heavenly Father, Who by Thy Son Jesus Christ hast delivered us through Thy Word and Holy Baptism from the dread leprosy of sin, and art pleased daily to manifest Thy gracious help in our every need, we beseech Thee, awaken our hearts by Thy Holy Spirit, that we may never be unmindful of Thy benefits, but ever live in Thy fear and perfect trust in Thy mercy, and with a joyous heart thank and praise Thee; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever, one God, world without end. Amen.

The Votum:

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Soli Deo Gloria!