**Church of the Divine Love**

**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**PROPER 23**

**OCTOBER 9, 2022**

**10:15 A.M.**

**HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II**

 THE WORD OF GOD

 Processional Hymn #

Opening Acclamation page 355

 Collect for Purity page 355

 Gloria page 356

 Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

 First Lesson: **2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c**

 Psalm 111

Second Lesson: **2 Timothy 2:8-15**

Gradual Hymn **–#**

 Gospel: **Luke 17:11-19**

 Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

 Nicene Creed page 358

 Prayers of the People, FormIV page 388

 The Confession of Sin page 360

 The Peace

 Welcome and Announcements

 THE HOLY COMMUNION

 Offertory Hymn **#**

Doxology (sung)

 The Great Thanksgiving:

 Eucharistic Prayer C page 369

 Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal) page 362

 The Lord’s Prayer page 364

 The Breaking of the Bread, Anthem & Prayer page 337

 The Communion of the People

 Communion Hymn – **#**

 Post Communion Prayer page 365

 Prayer for Peace – on insert

 Prayer of St. Francis page 833

Dismissal Hymn –**#**

Dismissal

 **Sermon Sunday October 9, 2022**

2Kings 5:1-3,7-15c; Psalm 111; 2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19

**Sisters and brothers in Christ,**

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

Several a years ago a gentleman said to me, “I just can’t get comfortable in my own skin.” Then he went on to describe his life. He described comparison and competition with others to be enough. He spoke of expectations that he could never meet. He revealed that loneliness isolated him in his family, with friends, and even at church. He was describing skin-level life. He was looking all around him, at the people and circumstances of his life but he was either unwilling or unable to look within himself. He wanted what the nine lepers wanted. He wanted new skin, comfortable skin. He wanted to be accepted and approved of by others. He wanted the priests of his life – all those people to whom he gave power and authority over himself – to declare him to be clean, to be enough.

If today’s gospel statistics are any indication, then ninety percent of us live life at skin level. That is, we live on the surface. It is a “what you see is what you get” attitude. We assume there is nothing else. At skin level our view of life is mostly determined by whether life is going our way and whether we get what we want. Life is very much exteriorized. That is not to suggest that skin-level life is easy or pain free. To the contrary life at that level feels mostly like day-to-day-survival, is rarely peaceful, and leaves us feeling as if something is missing. More than anything else skin-level life seeks to be comfortable; physically, emotionally, spiritually, socially, and financially. There is nothing wrong with being comfortable until we choose to settle for being comfortable rather than moving to a deeper place, a deeper way of seeing, relating, and living. Sometimes comfort can insulate us from the reality of life and the presence of God. It seems that only about ten percent, one in ten lepers, are willing to move in a new direction, to seek a wholeness that cannot be found in mere comfort.

For most of us when life gets uncomfortable, when things do not go our way, and we do not get what we want or expect then we begin seeking relief. We want the pain to stop and the situation to change or go away. Too often we look for quick easy solutions, something that will make us comfortable again; something that will allow us to go back to life the way it was before. That is the life of a leper. That is life at skin-level. One day you are clean. Life is as expected. You have work, friends, and family. You are part of the faith community. The next day everything changes. The next day you are unclean.

For the ten lepers in today’s gospel that means no family, no friends except each other, no work, no temple. They were physically shunned, excluded. They were kept at the farthest edges of society. They had to wear shabby rags for clothes. Their hair was to be a mess and left uncombed. If anyone started coming close, the leper was required to cry out “unclean, unclean.” That’s how it is when you are a leper. They want to go back to the way it was before, when they were clean, but they would settle for comfort. From a distance they cry out, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.” We can only imagine what they wanted. Maybe they hoped for a piece of bread, some water, a blanket. Maybe they just wanted to hear a kind word. Maybe they simply wanted to be seen and, if only for a moment, feel real, feel alive, feel like a human being. There is nothing comfortable about their lives. At skin-level each day of life is spent searching for some relief. I know that search and I’ll bet you do too.

Regardless of our skin condition we know what it is like to be a leper. We may not have lived under the same conditions as the lepers of Jesus’ time, but we could each tell a story about a time when we just could not get comfortable in our own skin. That is the leprosy of today. Today’s leprosy is not a medical condition or a legal status. It is, rather, a spiritual condition. It is leprosy of the heart. Its symptoms have nothing to do with our skin. Instead, they are things like perfectionism, gluttony, sadness, anger, pride, boredom, gossip, the need for control or approval, fear, being judgmental, restlessness, excessive busyness, grudges, prejudice, jealousy, condemnation, indifference, addiction. Leprosy distorts how we see and relate to God, the world, others, and even ourselves. Leprosy keeps life at a superficial level. These symptoms, what the early church mothers and fathers called passions, reveal a deep discomfort. As long as we deal with them at the level of skin, seeking cleanness rather than wholeness, we can never truly be made well.

Leprosy even convinces us that the most we can hope for is a declaration of cleanness. So, we settle for being comfortable rather than being changed. We seek relief rather than wholeness. We desire something from Jesus more than we desire Jesus himself. That is life at the skin-level. That is where we tend to live. It is where the lepers in today’s gospel have lived. Nine of the ten lepers will settle for a declaration of cleanness. But there is always that one, that one who is able to look below the surface, to see more than new skin. One leper, the Samaritan, looks past the exterior illusions of new skin. He sees a deeper reality and understands that healing is an interior condition. It is about the heart more than the skin. If he wants the healing and wholeness that Jesus offer, he will have to turn around and go in a direction different from the other nine. And he does. While nine lepers celebrate new skin, one leper celebrates the creator and restorer of new skin. While nine lepers hear the priests say, “You are clean,” one leper hears the Godman say, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.”

If today’s gospel statistics are any indication, then ninety percent of us live life at skin level. Jesus offers more. He desires more for us than we often desire for ourselves. What Jesus does for the one he offers too all. “Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” It is not a rebuke. It is an invitation. A life of faith is a life of thankfulness. Leprosy is not unlike a condition that is afflicting us, though ours is much graver. While the lepers were separated from worship in the Temple and the presence of God by their disease, we are eternally separated from God by our sinfulness. There is nothing we can do to heal ourselves. We need a Savior to perform a miracle, and He did. He cured our problem-spiritual death. Even better, He bestowed on us spiritual life for eternity**. Amen!**

 18 PENTECOST 10:15 AM HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II (also on zoom)

 COFFEE HOUR FOLLOW

MONDAY 8:00 AM AA MEETING

 WEDNESDAY 7:00 PM AL-ANON MEETING

 THURSDAY 10AM-2PM THRIFT SHOP

 8:00 PM AA MEETING

SATURDAY 10AM-2PM THRIFT SHOP

 19 PENTECOST 10:15 AM HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II (also on zoom)

 COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

 11:30 AM VESTRY MEETING

The Committee for the Election of a Bishop Coadjutor for our Diocese

has announced the following slate:

The Rev. Matthew Foster Heyd The Rev. Stephanie M. Johnson

The Diocese of New York The Diocese of Connecticut

The Rev. Matthew Hoxie Mead The Rev. Steven D. Paulikas

The Diocese of New York The Diocese of Long Island

The Rev. Robert Jemonde Taylor For more info visit

The Diocese of North Carolina bishopsearch.dioceseny.org

Anthony Giordano will be casting the vote for our parish. Let him

know any thoughts you have on the candidates.

 **PARISH PRAYER LIST**

Give to all who suffer the refreshing waters of your compassion and healing. Make them dwell in the safety of your care even in the midst of all that troubles them. Especially we remember before you:

Grace Schinella Harriet Capers Bob Curley

John Mulligan Arlene Goodenough Celeste

Chris Dickson Kate Jones Deb P.

Michael Echevarria John Rocco Robert Sweat

Barbara Stinson Michael & Family Warren

Charlotte H. Bernie Walther Anthony

Mo (Rachael) Bill Conklin Sr. Carolyn

Anthony Paribello Barbara Curran Del

Ciara Gabriel Aidan

Elodie Sophia Carol K.

People of Haiti Christopher & Family Julia

Maggie & Family People of Ukraine Tim

Nathan Treadwell Bob Lazevnick Art

Victims of Hurricane Ian

Help us speak words of encouragement and offer deeds of kindness to them. Bring us with them, into the unending joy of your kingdom. Amen

 This Week Next Week

Eucharistic Minister Jess Berbeck Anthony Giordano

Coffee Hour Prossers Judy Golden

Prayer before Worship

Almighty God, who pours out on all who desire it, the

spirit of grace. Deliver us, when we draw near to you,

from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that

with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may

worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ

our Lord. Amen

Storms and Hurricanes

O God, you rule over all creation, which you have set free

to act according to its nature. We know and love your world, which is also a world of randomness and chance. You are

Lord of chaos as well as order. We pray to you for people

caught in storms and hurricanes. We remember particularly

those whose work is dangerous, police and firefighters,

rescue workers of all kinds. You are known in storm and in

calm, you are Lord of thunders, you moved across the hills

of Judea. You are also a presence in stillness, a voice from

silence. You spoke to Job in the whirlwind and quieted the

Sea of Galilee. Wherever we are, in storm or calm, we know your presence. Call us sometimes to storm, sometimes to calm, sometimes to wilderness, sometimes to silence. Call

us always to yourself, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Prayer for Peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn

but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that

all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince

of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominions

and glory, now and for ever. Amen