

Church of the Divine Love
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
PROPER 23
OCTOBER 5, 2025 10:15 AM
HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

A Morning Prayer – on insert

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation 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**

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

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze – printed on insert

The Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form VI page 392

The Confession page 393

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:

Eucharistic Prayer B page 367

Sanctus page 362

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Sermon Sunday October 12, 2025

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

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

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. We are called to understand the dynamic power of the unchained word of God to bring forth life-giving possibilities in a chaotic world, during crisis situations and difficult times. It is in being conjoined with the life-giving and liberating word of God that we can bear the burdens of others more fully than we might believe possible.

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 God-Man say, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

Today's Gospel reminds us that those who will be healed, transformed, renewed, and liberated are not just those who are familiar to us. Rather, like the Samaritan, those who are different from us can be equally or more responsive to the unchained word of God. Think about the fact that the Samaritan whom Jesus calls the foreigner is the only person healed from leprosy who recognized Jesus for who he was. The Samaritan is the only one who fully understood the unchained power of Jesus' healing words and actions. During this time, when so many people considered foreigners and different are experiencing the chains of fear, repression, misunderstanding, and oppression, followers of Jesus have a Gospel mandate to accompany the disinherited. May we co-labor with God in the life-giving and liberating work of love in action. For the word of God is unchained. **Amen.**

All baptized Christians, regardless of age, are welcome to receive communion in the Episcopal Church.

18 PENTECOST - PROPER 23

10:15 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

MONDAY

8:00 PM

AA MEETING

TUESDAY

6:00 PM

BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAY

7:00 PM

AL-ANON MEETING

THURSDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
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SATURDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
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19 PENTECOST - PROPER 24	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Anthony Giordano	Deb Giordano
Coffee Hour	Judy Golden	Erika Febres

SUPPORT THE FOOD PANTRY - DROP-OFF IN THE KITCHEN

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Loving God, comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit. Give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. Especially we remember before you:

Barbara Curran	Betty Curley	Martin
Bob Curley	Steve Curley	Joseph
Chris Dickson	John Roccoo	Deb P.
John Mulligan	Marjorie Guerrier	Bobby

Donald Edwards	Robert Hosey	Ryan
Sister Eddie	Bernie Walther	Celeste
Beverly Noel	Phil Ryder	Warren
Anthony Paribello	Jonathan	Del
Donna Amundsen	Kate Jones	Jan
Shannon & Family	Vincent & Barbara	Sandy
Mary & Family	Wendy	James
Nathan Treadwell	Gladys Hadija	Sophia
Michael & Family	Brooke & Kylee	Mo
Michelle & Family	Christopher	Annie
Timothy Treasure	Donna A.	Aika
Moises Parra	Misael Varas	Kristen
Scottie Credendino	Michael	Jay

All people and countries suffering from violence, hatred and natural disaster.

The homeless and food insecure.

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.

To add or make changes to the prayer list during the week,

email Janet Croft at jmc220@optonline.net.

A Morning Prayer

Father in heaven, I stand ready to receive Your wisdom and guidance. In each decision, big or small, lead me to discern your will and to act accordingly. Help me to understand the depth of Your wisdom, finding guidance in Your word and through prayer. Teach me to be patient as I wait for Your direction, trusting that Your timing is perfect. May I navigate this day with the assurance that Your wisdom is a treasure far greater than any earthly knowledge. Guide my thoughts and actions, that they may be a reflection of Your discernment and love. In Your guidance, I find the path to a life of purpose and peace.

Amen

Hymn to be sung during the consecration:

Father I adore you,
Lay my life before you,
How I love you.

Repeat twice with second verse starting with Jesus
And third verse starting with Spirit.

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

