

The 18th Sunday after Pentecost
“Glorifying God who makes both body and soul well!” Luke 17:15-16
October 12, 2025
Rev. Ed Weber

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, our text for this 18th Sunday after Pentecost is from
Luke 17:15-16

“15 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, 16 and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan.”

So far the text:

You may have heard this phrase spoken once in awhile. “Veni, Vidi, Vici”. I came. I saw. I conquered. Julius Caesar first spoke this phrase to the Roman Senate in 47 BC after a decisive victory against Pharnaces, King of Pontus in modern day Turkey. Julius Caesar and his army of 15,000 men faces Pharnaces and his army of 20,000 men. Julius Caesar had his men building a camp on the high ground of valley when he saw Pharnaces climbing the hill. Julius Caesar easily routed them.

Our Gospel says that Jesus passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee and CAME to village. What did Jesus see? He saw and heard a cry for help.

“Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!”

These 10 lepers were fighting a losing battle. There was no cure for their leprosy. Little by little their skin was overcome by this disease until they died. It was very contagious so they lived as outcasts from society.

But Jesus came to fight our battles against sin, death and the devil. These formidable enemies have never been conquered by any man or woman. Sicknesses and diseases are the direct result of sin. And eventually everyone succumbs to death as our mortal bodies give up the fight.

But, Jesus came into our world, born of a virgin, He descended from heaven to become a true Man. Why? To enter the battle which we could not win.

Jesus saw. Jesus saw our captivity to sin. He saw that our master had become the devil. He saw our depraved condition. And that is why He came...out of mercy for us.

In Psalm 40, a messianic Psalm, we hear Jesus' words:

“6 Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; My ears You have opened. Burnt offering and sin offering You did not require. 7 Then I said, “Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book it is written of me. 8 I delight to do Your will, O my God,”

What is that will? Hebrews 10, which quotes these verses tell us.

“10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”

Jesus came to offer Himself as a sacrifice once for all people! And that is the mystery of how Jesus conquered all our enemies. Veni. Vidi. Vici. Jesus came. Jesus saw. Jesus conquered.

Galatians 3:13-14 tells us what Jesus had to become to achieve this decisive victory.

“13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”), 14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”

Jesus took upon Himself our leprosy. Our disease of sin which had infected all people outcasts from heaven. Our leprosy of sin which we could not cure had made us outcasts from heaven.

But Jesus defeated the devil who ruled as our master by His death and resurrection. And He became for us a blessing. The Seed of Abraham is a blessing for not only the Jews but also the Gentiles. For God loves all people. And this truth is seen very clearly in today's readings.

Jesus showed that He is the true Master by conquering the illness that afflicted these ten lepers. They were all cured as they walked to show themselves to the priests. Jesus didn't just cure the lepers who were Jews. No our text tells us that a Samaritan who was included in this misery was also cured.

A Samaritan. God's Word makes sure that we see this detail clearly. Yes, all people Jews and Gentiles are afflicted by sin, disease, and death.

In our Old Testament reading, Naomi's husband Elimelech died. And her two sons who had married Moabite women, foreigners also died. And yet, God's Word was a source of hope for the daughter-in-law, Ruth. For she had learned from her mother-in-law who was the true God. And she did not want to go back to her foreign gods and foreign land. No! What did Ruth say?

“Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; for wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. 17 Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. The Lord do so to me, and more also, if anything but death parts you and me.” (Ruth 1:16-17)

Ruth was conquered by the One True God. She was saved by her faith in the Lord of all. Ruth came to know God. She saw His mercy. She was conquered and made a child of God through faith. Veni, Vidi, Vici. She is included in the genealogy of our Lord in Matthew 1. She married Boaz and her son Obed, was the father of Jesse, the father of David and so continued the line of offspring to Jesus, her Savior!

Back to our Gospel reading...back to our cured Samaritan...back to our cured foreigner...

Yes, one of the 10 lepers who saw that he was cured, instantly, decisively came to Jesus and fell at His feet. He was a Samaritan...a mix of a Jew and foreigner...a half breed...not looked upon kindly by pure bred Jews. But, Jesus loves all people. He cured all the lepers and this Samaritan came back to glorify and give thanks to Jesus, his Master. He came back to Jesus. He saw Jesus as his Savior. For Jesus had conquered his battles.

I say battles, plural, because not only had Jesus cured his leprosy, Jesus had cured the leprosy of his sin which had infected his soul...which has infected all people's souls...yours and mine.

Jesus says to the Samaritan. **“Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well.”** Faith. Saving faith. Trust in the Savior Jesus. Faith comes through hearing and hearing by the Word of God...by the Word of Jesus, true Man and true God.

“Your faith has made you well.” Literally, in the Greek the word “well” means “saved”. Your faith has saved you! Yes, salvation has come to this Gentile!

So our Psalm for today, Psalm 111 praises God for His great works for all people...all nations!

“He has declared to His people the power of His works, in giving them the heritage of the nations. 7 The works of His hands are verity and justice; All His precepts are sure. 8 They stand fast forever and ever, And are done in truth and uprightness. 9 He has sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever: Holy and awesome is His name.”

This Samaritan of another nation received the power of Jesus’ works. His body was made well, and his soul was made well. He was redeemed! He was bought back and made new.

Jesus makes sure that all hear Him call this Samaritan what he is...a foreigner.

“Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? 18 Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?”

Literally this word, foreigner, in Greek means to become another. One who is not a Jew, God’s chosen people, are foreigners. They became others...whether they are Moabs, or Hittites, or Canaanites or Samaritans.

Yet, God’s love is for all people... for you and me who are foreigners as well. He has redeemed you and me by the blood of Jesus and cured us of the leprosy of our sin through faith in Jesus! His precepts are sure for me and you. They stand fast forever and ever for me and you! How Holy and awesome is His name!

And how did you a foreigner, born into sin, born of another, the devil become a child of God? Listen to the truth of God’s Word from Titus 3!

“4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

It was nothing that we could do, not of works of our unprofitable righteousness, as we heard last Sunday. No, it was purely by grace that we were justified and made well. How did God save us? How did He make your soul well?

“through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,”

Your baptism has saved you! Jesus came to you in the water of baptism. He saw your sin. And He conquered it and washed it away. Veni. Vidi. Vici!

He renewed us by the pouring out upon us the Holy Spirit! What have you become now? You are no longer a foreigner but an heir!

7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

You have become another, literally by grace. You have become an heir of eternal life! What does Paul tell us in Ephesians 2?

“19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,”

Ruth and Naomi’s God has become your God – the one true God -Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Samaritan’s God has become your God and your redeemed soul has been built into the one true church with Jesus Christ as the chief cornerstone!

Is that not something to give thanks and praise to God? Is that not something to come to church often to hear of how He has conquered your enemies, of sin, death and the devil. He has mercy on you and conquers your sickness even now according to His good will. And He promises you will be free of all your sicknesses and sins of body and soul in heaven!

Yes! We give glory to God with the Psalmist: **“Praise the Lord! I will praise the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright and in the congregation.” Amen**

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Amen. (Philippians 4:7)