

OCTOBER 12, 2025
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Jesus shows a foreigner mercy.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 17:11-19	One leper gives thanks to God
Monday	2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c	Elisha heals Naaman
Tuesday	2 Timothy 2:8-15	A soldier of Christ Jesus
Wednesday	Jeremiah 30:12-17	Restoration promised to Israel
Thursday	2 Timothy 1:13-18	Encouragement to be faithful
Friday	Leviticus 19:33-34	Love the alien as yourself
Saturday	Psalms 111	Praise God for wonderful works
Sunday	Luke 18:1-8	Parable of the persistent widow

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"Was none of them [the ten lepers] found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Luke 17:18 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, your compassion reaches out to those in need; give us thankful hearts for reaching out to us through Jesus Christ, the great healer of our lives. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we are thankful for this gift of food we receive today and for all that you do to care for us. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God show you kindness and mercy.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Have You Thanked the Lord?



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Have you ever been left out of a group? Explain.
- Where have you witnessed God's love shown to a stranger?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 17:11-19.

The Bible, especially the Old Testament, tells of an intimate connection between foreigners and God's people who had been slaves in Egypt and poorly treated. It is easy to have negative thoughts about people we do not know personally and sometimes tempting to go on the attack against them. This is especially true of people we may call strangers or foreigners. Jesus confronts our negative bias about others when he lifts up the Samaritan as a "foreigner" (Luke 17:18), someone God protects yet others often attack. For Jesus' own people, lepers were unapproachable, and Samaritans were belittled, yet Jesus approaches lepers and praises a Samaritan. For those moments when we, ourselves, may feel unapproachable or belittled, this is good news. For the unapproachable and belittled around us, Jesus' message is a calling to have a thankful heart filled with mercy.

Discuss: How does Jesus' mercy for foreigners encourage you to reflect on the needs of foreigners in your community?

Pray: **Loving God, you know our temptation to criticize people; help us to see others with your mercy that we may have thankful hearts through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you support an organization that helps refugees?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalms 111 gives praise for God's wonderful deeds. God is holy and awesome (v. 9). Take a walk around your neighborhood and note the things you see that you consider to be awesome. For example, trees, buildings, the sky, and clouds. Then sit down in your home and write a list of what you saw. Take time to say a prayer of praise to God using words from Psalm 111 to be thankful for "his wonderful deeds" (v. 4), "the power of his works" (v. 6), and "the work of his hands" (v. 7).



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org