

October 9, 2016  
28th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Cycle C

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 5: 14 – 17.

*God is God; there is none other in the world.*

Psalm 98: 1, 2 – 3, 3 – 4.

*God has revealed to the nations God's saving power.*

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 2 Timothy 2: 8 – 13.

*God's Word is not chained. We obtain wholeness in it and will live and reign with Christ.*

Gospel: Luke 17: 11 – 19.

*God requires only thanksgiving in return for God's gift of wholeness.*

“What do you say?”

God is good, **all the time**. All the time, **God is good**.

Last week end Fr. Dan spoke about the importance of “Faith” in our lives; and reminded us of how we naturally develop this faith through trusting in others. He exemplified his learning how to swim: his parents’ reassurance that it would be ok and his willing to reach out and cross over the boundaries of his fears in order to test it, and the more he did it the more he realized the truth in the conviction that he could swim. We also saw that it only took faith the size of a mustard seed to accomplish the will of God. Today’s reading not only follow that one in Luke but is a further demonstration of what that faith, once we claim it, requires of us.

Going back in your mind to your formative years, do you remember when you ever were given something by someone, your parent would say “Now what do you say?” And the answer was? (*Wait for it*) “THANK YOU!” Yet it seems to me that as we grow in age, wisdom and grace we begin to believe that we are responsible for all the good gifts we receive and seldom if ever take the time to thank the real giver of all good gifts. We really become much like the 9 other lepers who were cured in today’s gospel. We become too busy, too wrapped up in our own world, too disconnected from one another to take the time to sincerely say “thank you.”

Fr. Dan, when he began our Eucharist today, prayed, “May your grace, Oh God, we pray, at all times go before us and follow after and make us always determined to carry out your good works. ...” Remember “Eucharist” comes from the Greek word meaning ‘to give thanks.’ We gather here as community each week to say “Thank you!” for God’s magnificent gift of becoming one with us. This celebration actually turns each of us into a tabernacle of God’s presence as we consume the body and blood of Christ: we become what we eat. This is not done for our own benefit only. We are sent, hence the work “Mass,” which comes from the Latin “*missio*,” to bring that presence with us out into our world.

So like the Samaritan, the foreigner, in our gospel today, we are not only healed but saved, or transformed (an internal healing or bringing to wholeness) into the creation we were intended to be from all time. This is all because of a faith the size of a mustard seed. Truly we have an

awesome God: one of a kind as Naaman claimed. It is this blessed wholeness that allows us to go forth from here and touch the lives of others in need of our God's love and healing.

Allow me to wrap this up with a quote from Thomas Merton: "There is something in the depths of our being that hungers for wholeness and finality. Because we are made for eternal life, we are made for an act that gathers up all the powers and capacities of our being and offers them simultaneously and forever to God."

Now what do you say?

God is good, **all the time**. All the time, **God is good**.

World