



COLLECT, READINGS AND REFLECTION
SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER 2025 – Trinity 17

COLLECT

Almighty God,
you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you:
pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself,
and so bring us at last to your heavenly city
where we shall see you face to face;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Psalm 111

1 Alleluia.

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, ♦
in the company of the faithful and in the congregation.

2 The works of the Lord are great, ♦
sought out by all who delight in them.

3 His work is full of majesty and honour ♦
and his righteousness endures for ever.

4 He appointed a memorial for his marvellous deeds; ♦
the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.

5 He gave food to those who feared him; ♦
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

6 He showed his people the power of his works ♦
in giving them the heritage of the nations.

7 The works of his hands are truth and justice; ♦
all his commandments are sure.

8 They stand fast for ever and ever; ♦
they are done in truth and equity.

9 He sent redemption to his people;
he commanded his covenant for ever; ♦
holy and awesome is his name.

10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
a good understanding have those who live by it; ♦
his praise endures for ever.

A reading from Paul's second letter to Timothy, chapter 2, verses 8-15.

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. The saying is sure:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;
if we endure, we will also reign with him;
if we deny him, he will also deny us;
if we are faithless, he remains faithful—
for he cannot deny himself.

Remind them of this, and warn them before God that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

At Morning Prayer, the Gospel is simply the second reading, people sit to hear it and is introduced in the same way as the first:

The second reading is from Luke, chapter 17, verses 11-19.

and then at the end:

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

For Eucharists/ Communion people stand to hear the Gospel. Everywhere except Fitz introduces it with an Acclamation (the blue bit), and then we all use the introduction and ending (the green bit):

Alleluia. **Alleluia.**

We do not live by bread alone, but every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke, chapter 17, verses 11-19.

Glory to you, O Lord

And then at the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O 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.'

A Reflection from Hannah

Have you ever embarked on an afternoon tidying up a pile of papers and then discovered (to your horror) that hidden amongst them is a thank-you card you never sent? I certainly have! Whatever it was that we thanked the person for- we *felt* gratitude at the time, *expressed* gratitude in writing, but because we forgot to actually give them the card, they had no idea of our appreciation.

In our Gospel reading, we are given a very simple account of ten people with leprosy being healed... just like that! Their entire lives are transformed by an encounter with Jesus; they are reconciled back to their communities; their 'outsider' status is at an end. It does not go unnoticed that only one of them comes back to say thank-you. As we read it, our consciences may be piqued, we may wonder whether we've ever forgotten to thank someone or we may be reminded of a time when we did.

A gratitude-attitude (as we call it in our house!) is very deliberately encouraged during the season of harvest- as we recognise the abundant provision we enjoy and the amazing complexity of an ecosystem delicately balanced to support and sustain life- including ours. But it is so easy to take something for granted- even something that is rather miraculous and fills us with wonder when we pause to consider it. Take our harvest donations- this week I've watched an entire school troop into Bicton church, each carrying an object- a tin, a sachet of cuppa soup, a carton of long-life milk, a box of cereal... in one sense, these are such mundane objects that we don't give them a second thought- our kitchens are already full of them. But as the children waited to cross the road or queued up to get in through the door, some of them were clearly starting to ponder. Driven by a bit of boredom (!), they were examining what they were carrying- turning it over in their hands, looking at it in a new way. And actually, when we consider the origin story of something as 'everyday' as a sachet of cuppa soup, it really is quite breathtaking that such an object should exist, and is available to us. It certainly is something to be thankful for!

Both our Gospel story and the bit we have from Paul's second letter to Timothy remind us that our gratitude is always a response to God who is faithful. Whether or not we remember to say thank-you, the dogged faithfulness of God never waivers. As Paul writes, 'if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself'. God's love remains, whether we notice it, or not. Those nine people who just skipped off into the sunset without another thought were *still* healed. They still enjoyed the blessings of God's love restoring them to health. But it's interesting that the one who said thank-you was told that his faith had made him well. Acknowledging our gratitude to the one who sustains our very existence and being aware of the presence of divine love in our daily lives transforms our very being- it helps us to live 'fully', which is so much more than the absence of a particular ailment. As John 10.10 reminds us- in Jesus there is life; life in all its fullness.