

January 17, 2021: The 29TH Sunday after Pentecost (The healing of the 10 lepers)

Epistle: Col. 3:4-11:

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

Gospel: Luke 17:12-19:



Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” So when He saw them, He said to them, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. And one

of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, “Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?” And He said to him, “Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well.

The theme of this Sunday's gospel reading is **gratitude**. Although this is a real story, the actual encounter between Christ and the ten lepers, its moral is as valid today as it was two thousand years ago and throughout the ages ever since.

St Luke relates to us that although all ten lepers who, according to the rules of the time had to leave their families and communities and live in isolation, prayed with the same intensity (“*Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!*”) and, as a result, received the same gift of healing, only one of them proved to be a man of character. And what's more interesting, this man wasn't even part of the "chosen people" but a Samaritan, a "*foreigner.*" He alone returned to his benefactor and thanked Him.

It is important to notice that this man didn't come back to thank his benefactor in a casual manner (the way we do it so often with a cold "thanks"); he "*fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks,*" which means that he engaged in an act of adoration and praise, a liturgical act.

When we show our gratitude to God for all the blessings He gives us on a daily basis **we are the ones** who actually benefit from this. We turn toward our benefactor, the merciful and loving God and, just like the cleansed Samaritan, reaffirm our role and vocation as liturgical beings.

As Orthodox Christians, we do this every day as individuals as part of our private prayers and collectively, as a community, when we come to partake in the Eucharistic celebration, on Sundays and Feast days.

Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!

Fr. George Bazgan

Sunday Service Attendance

Due to the continuing State of Emergency, and the recent measures imposed by the provincial authorities, the maximum number of people attending Church services is 20.

In order to give more people a chance to attend, we ask those who attended last Sunday, to skip this upcoming Sunday, establishing some sort of a rotation system. Also, only one person from the same family, please!

We apologize for this inconvenience and hope that the restrictions will continue to be relaxed in the near future.

Those who attend, are kindly asked to observe the recommendations of the experts, such as: wearing a mask, washing hands, social distancing, etc.

Thank you all and may God keep us safe!

We are live streaming the Liturgy

As we continue to operate under these restrictions, we are live streaming the Divine Liturgy on You Tube. To access the Sunday Services, [click here](#).

Prayer at the time of pandemic

O Lord, our God, who are rich in mercy and, with Your wise care, guard our lives, listen to our prayer, receive our repentance for our sins, stop this pandemic, as You have ceased the punishment of the people in the days of King David. You who are the Physician of our souls and our bodies, give healing to those contaminated with this disease, hastily raising them from their bed of suffering, to glorify You, the Most Merciful Savior, and protect those who are healthy from any disease.

Bless, strengthen and shield, O Lord, with Your grace, all those who, with love of people and sacrifice, care for the sick at their homes or in hospitals. Remove all disease and suffering from the people and teach us to value life and health as gifts coming from You.

Grant us, O God, Your peace, and fill our hearts with unwavering faith in Your protection, with hope in Your help, and with love towards You and our neighbor.

For Yours is to show mercy and to save us, O our God, and to You we give glorify: Father and Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen!