



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY October 9 & BEYOND

Gratitude and grace are two words and themes that we see in the readings today. They are important words as we come to understand our journey of faith in this life. If we hold them together, we can better come to appreciate the meaning of life and what is essential for us.

We find the word 'grace' in the Collect of the Day: 'Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works.' Perhaps the first thing we think of is the grace we say at meals, but the meaning of grace is so much deeper than that. We can try to comprehend it, but it's definition will always allude us.

Grace is the Love of God, freely given, unmerited and undeserved that we experience throughout our life. It has been said that everything is grace, a gift from God who loved us into being. To live a grace filled life, is to appreciate the presence of God in all things, even the hardest moments of our life. Grace is our salvation, faith, and healing.

Like the ten lepers that Jesus encounters in the gospel reading today. It is hard to find grace in their leprosy, a terrible disease that destroys body and soul. But, their encounter with Jesus is one of grace and healing. They call to Jesus, "Have mercy on us!" Most people would have nothing to do with lepers, they would not go near them, they would send them away, and quickly. Jesus sends them away, but he sends them healed of their disease. He sends them to the priests, who alone can declare them clean again. For the lepers, grace poured out like a waterfall, cleansing them from their disease. A miraculous sign of God's grace and love. They must have jumped for joy and run to show their families and friends.



The gospel tells us that one man turned back. One man, when he saw that he was healed, turned back to Jesus, praising God for all that He had done. He fell at the feet of the Master, giving thanks for the grace of God, and he was a Samaritan. He was an outcast living among outcasts. Jesus cannot help but notice that ten were cleansed but only one returned to give thanks. How can that be?

I can imagine this quite easily. Grace, like the air we breathe, surrounds me every day. It always precedes and follows me. Wherever I go, I can know that grace has been there before me. I know that grace will follow me along every path of life, and I forget every day. I forget to give thanks constantly for God's grace and presence. I'm too busy, too preoccupied, to rush back to Jesus and give thanks to His Name. I may take a moment, but the moment passes too quickly.

O God, help us to receive with joy and gratitude the gracious life and love that you bestow upon us each and every day. Amen.

Fr. Steven Schuneman, Retired Priest in the Diocese of San Diego

Readings for this Sunday

Ruth 1:1-19a Psalm 113 2 Timothy 2:8-15 Luke 17:11-19

Calendar

SUNDAY: 8:00a Low Mass (Church)
9:30a Christian Formation (Fireside Room)
10:30a Solemn Mass (Church)

—*The entrance to the church is on 6th Avenue*—

Note: Child care is provided at the 8:00a, 10:30a Mass, Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.

MONDAY 7:00p (AA) Doctors' Group (Fireside Room)

TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

FRIDAY: 9:00a Morning Prayer (St. Mary's Chapel)
9:30a MASS (St. Mary's Chapel)
AA Meeting 6:30p Rainbow Bridge (Fireside Room)
8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)
8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)