

**Connecting Music to Mass**  
**October 9 2016**

**Today's readings are found at #1175 in the hymnal.**

We continue to focus on **faith** this week in the Liturgy of the Word. I'd like to use the responsorial psalm refrain as the central point of today's readings and music – ***"The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power."***

The first "revelation" to focus on today is the healing of leprosy. The internal ailments of leprosy are abundant, but the outer appearance and contagiousness are what historically made lepers outcasts. In general, our society has become very accepting of physical deformation and disability, so it's difficult to capture the impact of healing this disease. Back on track. The passage from the first reading focuses on the healing of Naaman, and the enthusiastic gratitude he shows the Lord. We miss something by taking this passage out of context. When the Prophet Elisha initially sent Naaman the message, "Go and wash seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will heal, and you will be clean," Naaman was angry because of the simplicity of the ritual. Naaman was a powerful military commander, so he wanted something grander. Eventually he listens to the prophet and is healed. His actions, then, not only express gratitude, but *also* conversion, devotion, and a willingness to serve. We sing a paraphrase of Psalm 34 during communion. The lament-sounding refrain, "The Lord hears the cry of the poor," is juxtaposed with the verses that give God praise. Connecting to today's responsorial psalm – we give praise to God for what he has done for us!

Naaman's actions of gratitude are echoed in the gospel when *one* of the ten who was healed comes back to thank the Lord. This *one* was a **Samaritan**, a foreigner looked down upon by society. Jesus tells him, "...your **faith** has saved you." Trace back to the responsorial psalm – "The Lord has revealed to **the nations...**" The justice, kindness, and faithfulness of the Lord are not for certain people, but for *anyone* who is willing to follow – even an outcast. Our opening hymn - "In Christ There Is No East or West" (#832) - reflects the message that salvation is available to all, and that in Christ, we are one!

St. Paul teaches an invaluable lesson in his letter to Timothy. He uses his imprisonment to communicate the **power** of the Word of God. ***"The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power."*** Indeed, as Paul says, the Word of God is **not** chained! Remember the homily last week? Faith is an attitude of **trust** that God will provide. With that attitude, what if we used our afflictions to preach the gospel?

The recessional hymn recounts the many miracles of Jesus' public ministry. The third stanza echoes the responsorial psalm – "Let us sing with joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done" – and the idea that God's love is universal – "Praise the One who makes us one." The Word of God is not chained – in faith, go and share it!

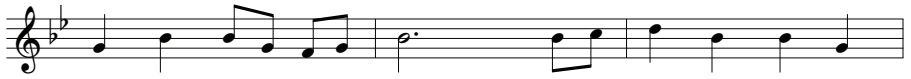
Stephen Eros  
Director of Liturgy & Music

**[Click here - Sunday Readings for October 9, 2016](#)**

## In Christ There Is No East or West



1. In Christ there is no east or west, In  
 2. In him shall true hearts ev - 'ry - where Their  
 3. Join hands, dis - ci - ples in the faith, What -  
 4. In Christ now meet both east and west, In



him no south or north, But one great fam - 'ly  
 high com - mun - ion find; His serv - ice is the  
 e'er your race may be! Who serve each oth - er  
 him meet south and north; All Christ - ly souls are



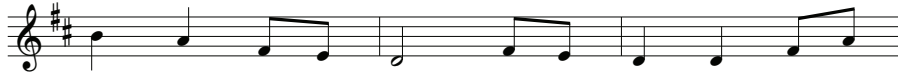
bound by love Through - out the whole wide earth.  
 gold - en cord Close bind - ing hu - man - kind.  
 in Christ's love Are sure - ly kin to me.  
 one in him Through - out the whole wide earth.

Text: Galatians 3:23; William A. Dunkerley, 1852-1941, alt.  
 Tune: McKEE, CM; African American; adapt. by Harry T. Burleigh, 1866-1949

## Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



1. Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a  
 2. Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a  
 3. Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who



lib - er - at - ing light. Praise the One who frees the  
 strong yet gen - tle word. Praise the One who drove out  
 suf - fered in our place. Je - sus died and rose for



pris - 'ners, Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.  
 de - mons With a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.  
 man - y That we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, Heal - ing  
 Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter To the  
 Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, See - ing



ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing storms and feed - ing  
 des - ert's burn - ing sand. From this well comes liv - ing  
 what our God has done. Praise the one re - deem - ing



thou - sands With the ver - y bread of peace.  
 wa - ter Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
 glo - ry; Praise the One who makes us one.

