

**The First Reading is from 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c**

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."

When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me."

But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean." But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean!'" So he went down

and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company; he came and stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel."

**The Word of the Lord.**

**Today's Psalm is Psalm 111. We will read it responsively, breaking at the asterisk. It can be found on the screens behind me, on page 754 of the Book of Common Prayer, or in the bulletin.**

## **Psalm 111**

*Confitebor tibi*

1 Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, \*

**in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.**

2 Great are the deeds of the Lord! \*

**they are studied by all who delight in them.**

3 His work is full of majesty and splendor, \*

**and his righteousness endures for ever.**

4 He makes his marvelous works to be remembered; \*

**the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.**

5 He gives food to those who fear him; \*

**he is ever mindful of his covenant.**

6 He has shown his people the power of his works \*

**in giving them the lands of the nations.**

7 The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; \*

**all his commandments are sure.**

8 They stand fast for ever and ever, \*

**because 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; \*

**those who act accordingly have a good understanding; his praise endures for ever.**

**The Second Reading is from 2 Timothy 2:8-15**

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.

**The Word of the Lord.**