

Day 8

Generosity: Receiving and Giving

Scripture

- **Acts 28: 8-10**, They bestowed many honors on us.

“The father of Publius lay sick in bed with fever and dysentery. Paul visited him and cured him by praying and putting his hands on him. After this happened, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases also came and were cured. They bestowed many honors on us, and when we were about to sail, they put on board all the provisions we needed”.

- **Psalm 103: 1-5**, Praise the Lord, my soul.
- **Matthew 10: 7-8**, Freely you have received. Freely give.

Meditation

This story is full of giving and receiving: Paul received unusual kindness from the islanders; Paul gives healing to the father of Publius and others; having lost everything in the storm, the 276 receive abundant provisions as they set sail. As Christians we are called to unusual kindness. But in order to give we must first learn to receive – from Christ and from others. More often than we realize, we are recipients of acts of kindness from people who are different from us. These acts also point towards the generosity and healing of our Lord. We who have been healed by the Lord are responsible for passing on that which we have received.

Prayer

God, giver of life, we thank you for the gift of your compassionate love which soothes and strengthens us. We pray that our churches may be always open to receive your gifts from one another. Grant us a spirit of generosity to all as we journey together in the path of Christian unity. We ask this in the name of your Son who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer Intention: For those who participate in the works of ecumenism and interreligious dialogue, that they always treat one another with extraordinary kindness seeking the unity that is found in Christ and a true openness to the giftedness found in each other... We pray to the Lord.

Questions:

- Have you ever received a gift from someone from whom you found it difficult to receive? What did you do with the gift?
- How does your church receive from other Christian traditions?
- How does your church receive from people of other faiths and none?

Action: Ask someone to help you with an outstanding task or need you have.