

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But with you is found forgiveness,
O God of Israel.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

May your grace, O Lord, we pray,
at all times go before us and follow after
and make us always determined
to carry out good works.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

2 Kings 5:14-17

A reading from the second book of the Kings.
Naaman the leper went down and immersed
himself seven times in the Jordan, as Elisha had
told him to do. And his flesh became clean once
more like the flesh of a little child. Returning
to Elisha with his whole escort, he went in
and stood before him. "Now I know" he said
"that there is no God in all the earth except in
Israel. Now, please, accept a present from your
servant." But Elisha replied, "As the Lord lives,
whom I serve, I will accept nothing." Naaman
pressed him to accept, but he refused. Then
Naaman said, "Since your answer is 'No,' allow
your servant to be given as much earth as two
mules may carry, because your servant will no
longer offer holocaust or sacrifice to any god
except the Lord."

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 97

Response:

The Lord has shown his salvation to the
nations.

1. Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation. (R.)
2. The Lord has made known his salvation:
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel. (R.)

3. All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord all the earth,
ring out your joy. (R.)

SECOND READING

2 Timothy 2:8-13

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to
Timothy.

Remember the Good News that I carry, "Jesus
Christ risen from the dead, sprung from the
race of David"; it is on account of this that I
have my own hardships to bear, even to being
chained like a criminal - but they cannot chain
up God's news. So I bear it all for the sake of
those who are chosen, so that in the end they
may have the salvation that is in Christ Jesus
and the eternal glory that comes with it. Here is
a saying that you can rely on:

If we have died with him, then we shall live
with him.

If we hold firm, then we shall reign with him.

If we disown him, then he will disown us.

We may be unfaithful, but he is always faithful,
for he cannot disown his own self.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words are spirit, Lord,

and they are life:

you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 17:11-19

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke.

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus travelled along
the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he
entered one of the villages, ten lepers came to
meet him. They stood some way off and called
to him, "Jesus! Master! Take pity on us." When
he saw them he said, "Go and show yourselves
to the priests." Now as they were going away
they were cleansed. Finding himself cured, one
of them turned back praising God at the top of
his voice and threw himself at the feet of Jesus
and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan.
This made Jesus say, "Were not all ten made
clean? The other nine, where are they? It seems
that no one has come back to give praise to
God, except this foreigner." And he said to the
man, "Stand up and go on your way. Your faith
has saved you."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, O Lord, the prayers of your faithful
with the sacrificial offerings,
that, through these acts of devotedness,
we may pass over to the glory of heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The rich suffer want and go hungry,
but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We entreat your majesty most humbly, O Lord,
that, as you feed us with the nourishment
which comes from the most holy Body and
Blood of your Son,
so you may make us sharers of his divine
nature.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

Do not grieve over temptations you suffer.
When the Lord intends to bestow a particular
virtue on us, He often permits us first to be
tempted by the opposite vice. Therefore, look
upon every temptation as an invitation to grow
in a particular virtue and promise God that you
will be successful, if only you stand fast.

St Philip Neri

Sunday Message

28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • 12 October 2025 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 4



SAY

"I thank you, Lord, for all you have given me. Help me always to have a grateful heart."

DO

Visit a loved one who lives alone or in a nursing home and bring them some of the 'ease' and comfort of the healing presence of Jesus.

PRAY

When the Samaritan returns to Jesus to say thanks, Jesus tells him that it is his faith that has made him well. Because the Samaritan believed, he was restored to health. Ask the Lord to increase your faith.

LEARN

Christians are people with grateful hearts

Thankfulness is actively acknowledging what God and others do for us and articulating it, making sure to let them know



Today's Gospel is the famous story about the cleansing of lepers. Leprosy is the name the Bible gives to many forms of skin disease, and not necessarily to the medical condition known today as leprosy, which is more accurately called Hansen's Disease.

The Bible has detailed rules (especially in the Book of Leviticus) for detecting such skin diseases. It treats them not just as a medical condition but as one that also carries a degree of religious impurity. Ancient medical knowledge was very limited, and sickness usually carried a religious as well as a physical significance. That is why the Bible gives a priest responsibility for assessing the degree of contagion and whether it is a serious case and, finally, certifying that the sufferer is cured.

It's possible that these 10 victims are living together in a kind of settlement set aside for people like them, a kind of leprosarium. They observe the rules of avoiding contact with other people, but instead of calling out that they are 'unclean,' as the Law requires, they ask Jesus to take pity on them. He tells them to go to the priests responsible for assessing their skin condition. On the way, they realise that their skin has suddenly improved.

It is here we discover the point of this story. Nine of those who have been cured continue their journey, eager to meet their loved ones and get back into the flow of everyday life. Who would blame them? But one acts differently – the Samaritan who returns to throw himself in gratitude at Jesus' feet. Jesus recognises that it is a foreigner who has returned to give thanks. His final words to the Samaritan – "Stand up and go on your way, your faith has saved you" – are a reminder that the Gospel's message of salvation will eventually come to the Samaritans also. Jesus has demonstrated once more, as he did in the story of the Good Samaritan, how open these people are to receiving the good news of salvation. ■

REFLECT

We are all very painfully aware now of what it's like to be physically cut off from others. During the Covid pandemic, we all had to practise social distancing to keep ourselves safe and prevent the highly contagious illness from spreading. It was a stressful time, especially for those living alone and older people cut off from their families. Despite the advances in communications technology which enabled people to stay connected and to see each other on FaceTime or Zoom, people felt the pain of isolation. They felt the absence of physical contact – a handshake, hug, kiss, an embrace, a shoulder to cry on, the physical expression of intimacy we need in order to flourish and grow. People experienced what social scientists call 'skin hunger,' touch deprivation. Experts say skin hunger is a major factor in incidents of depression among humans. All of us who were physically cut off from loved ones

during the Covid lockdown know exactly what they mean by skin hunger.

It gives us a good idea of what life was like for the lepers in today's Gospel. If you look at the word 'disease,' you'll notice it is made up of two parts: 'dis-' which usually means that something is out of place, e.g. disorder or dislocated, and 'ease' or comfort. To suffer from 'disease' in this sense is something worse than just being sick.

The lepers had to practise social distancing. They were removed from their families and from the rest of society. They suffered not only from their skin condition but also from skin hunger. No wonder they pleaded with Jesus to help them. No wonder that, after being healed, nine of them were so excited they forgot to thank Jesus for restoring their lives and their families to them.

All the healing stories of Jesus bring out this point: that he overcomes 'dis-ease' –

the distancing of suffering people from the community where they should be loved and cherished – every bit as much as he overcomes physical illness.

It's a lesson for how we should treat the sick and the isolated. It is not easy to be old or sick today. We live in a youth- and beauty-obsessed culture, the world of 'Instagram-face,' that promotes unrealistic, filtered versions of people. In this world of glamour and the influencer, of diets and workouts, of bronzed bodies and chiseled looks, the old, sick, and disabled can be overlooked, excluded, isolated from public view, forgotten. Some people refuse to visit hospitals or nursing homes because it's too distressing. There is an impulse to dodge the reality of illness, decay, and old age.

Jesus excluded nobody from his love and attention. He cared especially for the marginalised and discarded ones. He wants us to do likewise. ■