

# Sunday Message

**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** Psalm 97

Response:  
The Lord has shown his salvation to the  
nations.

- Sing a new song to the Lord  
for he has worked wonders.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have brought salvation. (R.)
- 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.)

- 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**

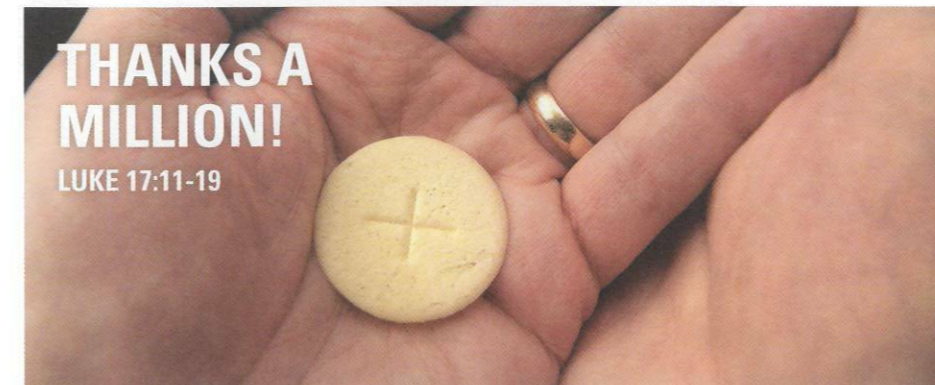
The rich suffer want and go hungry,  
but those who seek the Lord lack no  
blessing.

**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.

Father in heaven, you have made us for  
yourself; our hearts are restless until they rest  
in you. Fulfil this longing through Jesus, the  
bread of life, so that we may witness to him  
who alone satisfies the hungers of the human  
family. By the power of your Spirit lead us  
to the heavenly table where we may feast  
on the vision of your glory for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**THE WORD**



Christians are a Eucharistic people, which means we are thankful people, and today's Gospel account of the healing of ten lepers is about the necessity of giving thanks.

In the time of Jesus, skin diseases frightened people to death. They were seen as highly contagious, and the Bible has detailed rules for dealing with them. It sees them not just as a medical condition but as one with religious implications. People believed that such diseases were God's punishment for sin. That is why the Bible gives a priest the responsibility for assessing the disease, as we see in today's Gospel.

People with skin diseases were obliged to live away from their families and community. The book of Leviticus says: "The person who has the leprous disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head be dishevelled; and he shall cover his upper lip and cry out, 'Unclean, unclean.' He shall live alone; his dwelling shall be outside the village."

And so, victims suffered in two ways: from the physical effects of the disease but, even worse, from the heartbreak of being cut off from their families and ostracised by the community.

The lepers in today's Gospel are probably living together in an isolated settlement. But when Jesus passes nearby, instead of keeping their distance as they are required to do, they pluck up the courage to ask him to take pity on them. Jesus tells them to go to the priests as the law requires. On the way, they realise they are cured.

They are thrilled, over the moon. Their lives have been restored to them. Their isolation is lifted. They can go back to their families. No wonder the first thing they do is rush home, completely neglecting to thank Jesus. It wasn't bad manners – simply that they couldn't wait to meet their loved ones. The extraordinary thing is that one of them had the presence of mind to thank Jesus in person.

In restoring the ten to health, Jesus 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 sick people and those on the margins. ■

**DO**

Tell a loved one how much he or she means to you.

Acknowledgement; Appreciation; Action – think of concrete ways in which you can practise all three.

**SAY**

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

**PRAY**

Jesus tells the Samaritan that his faith has made him well. Ask the Lord to increase your faith.

**LEARN**

Christians are people with grateful hearts.

Christians never discriminate against others based on race, creed, sexuality, or background.

Jesus is the one who heals.

**REFLECT**

Today's Gospel is about the need to show gratitude. When I think about gratitude, three words come to mind that begin with the letter A.

The first is acknowledgement. It's important to say thanks. We need to verbally and personally express thanks as the Samaritan does in the Gospel. Very often, we can forget to do it. Thankfulness is actively acknowledging what God and others do for us and articulating it, making sure to let them know.

The second A is appreciation, having an attitude of gratitude. In the Gospel, the lepers were given their health back and with it their families and their freedom. It must have given them a new appreciation of life and all that had been returned to them. Now they appreciated far more what they might have taken for granted before their illness – the presence of loved ones, the gift of health, the freedom to do whatever they wanted.

In our busyness, complacency, or lassitude, we can take what we have for granted. Thankfulness is appreciating – deeply appreciating – all we have been given.

The third A is action. To show thanks by doing good. To show appreciation for our blessings by doing good. Conscious of their good fortune, many people contribute to charity or aid agencies. They want to give something back.

Having an attitude of gratitude leads us beyond ourselves to others, to do good, to action for justice, to care for the earth and those in need. Conscious of what we have been given, we share our blessings, gifts, talents. Thankfulness is love in action.

And this is what we do every time we celebrate Mass. Eucharist comes from the Greek word *Eucharistia*, which means to give thanks. The Mass is literally a celebration of thanks. We acknowledge everything for which we should be grateful. We deepen our appreciation of all that God has done for us and given to us, which leads to action. We go from church to world in love and service. ■