



LIVING THE GOSPEL

**28th Sunday in Ordinary Time.
October 12th 2025**

Theme: "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

Gathering Prayer

All: 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, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Exploring the Word

Gospel Reading: Luke 17:11-19

¹¹ On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance ¹³ and lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." ¹⁴ When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. ¹⁵ Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; ¹⁶ and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Then said Jesus, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? ¹⁸ Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹ And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

Gospel Focus

The "other nine" lepers get a little bit of a bad rap, Jesus commanded them to go to the priests, the one who returns is disobeying. The others were probably eager to have their restored health witnessed by the priests so that they could return to communal life. They were intent on their tasks; this is not a bad thing. But the tenth leper in commended because he lets God interrupt him. We can often miss the movements of God in our lives because we are set in our ways. We make our little plans and can stuck in them. But when God moves in this leper's life (as God moves in all our lives), he stops and notices. He turns back and gives thanks. He lets God change his plan.

Gospel Reflection

The first reading and the gospel today tell stories of two different men afflicted with leprosy. One was a mighty warrior, commander of the army of the king of Aram. The other is huddled with a pitiful group of nine others likewise afflicted. Both are foreigners who nonetheless are healed by Israel prophets, Elisha and Jesus. Both praise the God of Israel for their transformation.

In the gospel account, the focus is on the way the one healed man turns around and loudly glorifies God, falling at Jesus' feet, thanking him. It is a dramatic enactment of the stance of saving gratitude that divine gifts evoke. Jesus affirms the man's response and tell him to go, that his faith has saved him. Luke does not elaborate what was the man's inner disposition before he was healed. Was he filled with self-pity? Was he consumed with longing for well-being? Was he bitter or despairing over his deteriorating physical state?

At the realization of his healing, the man turned around, perhaps not only physically but also interiorly as well. When he lets gratitude for all God has given him consume him, he turns around from any other cancers that eat at his spirit. Jesus affirms that this kind of faith, rooted in thankfulness, is the healing, saving power (the Greek verb *sozein* connotes both "hell" and "save") that enables him to go forward as a changed person, both in body and spirit.

In the first reading, Naaman has a much more difficult time accepting the full transformation offered to him. In the verses leading up to today's Lectionary selection, Naaman takes huge amount of silver, gold and clothing, along with a letter from his king, when he approaches the king of Israel to ask for healing from a foreign prophet. He then goes to Elisha's house with horses, chariots and all his retinue.

Elisha's sends out a messenger, who directs Naaman to wash seven times in the Jordan River. Naaman is furious, declaring, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand there to call on the name of the Lord his God, and would move his hand over the place, and thus cure the leprous spot" (2 Kings 5:11). Because of his high position, Naaman feels entitled to special, personal attention. He is used to giving commands and has a fixed idea of how healing should be done. And although he has crossed into Israeli territory, he has no regard to their life-giving water. He insists that the rivers in his own land are better than the Jordan. After he departs in a rage, his servants persuade him to go back and immerse himself into the Jordan.

Naaman struggles mightily to turn away from his stance of entitlement, from his attempts to buy healing, and to direct the manner in which it should occur. After his healing, Naaman still tries to pay for it, but Elisha will take nothing from him. All that God or Jesus desires in return is a heart shaped by saving gratitude for freely given grace that has the power to heal both the inner and outer self.

Old/New Testament and CCC links

First Reading – 2 Kings 5:14-17

¹⁴ So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. ¹⁵ Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and he came and stood before him; and he said, "Behold, I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel; so accept now a present from your servant." ¹⁶ But he said, "As the LORD lives, whom I serve, I will receive none." And he urged him to take it, but he refused. ¹⁷ Then Naaman said, "If not, I pray you, let there be given to your servant two mules' burden of earth; for henceforth your servant will not offer burnt offering or sacrifice to any god but the LORD.

Responsorial Reading – Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4

R: The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power. (R)

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done wondrous deeds; his right hand has won victory for him, his holy arm. **(R)**

The Lord has made his salvation known: in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice. He has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness toward the house of Israel. **(R)**

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation by our God. Sing joyfully to the Lord, all you lands: break into song; sing praise. **(R)**

Second Reading – 2 Timothy 2:8-13

⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descended from David, as preached in my gospel, ⁹ the gospel for which I am suffering and wearing fetters like a criminal. But the word of God is not fettered. ¹⁰ Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain salvation in Christ Jesus with its eternal glory. ¹¹ The saying is sure: If we have died with him, we shall also live with him; ¹² if we endure, we shall also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; ¹³ if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself.

Catechism of The Catholic Church

586. Far from having been hostile to the Temple, where he gave the essential part of his teaching, Jesus was willing to pay the Temple-tax, associating with him Peter, whom he had just made the foundation of his future Church.(Cf. Mt 8:4; 16:18; 17:24-27; Lk 17:14; Jn 4:22; 18:20) He even identified himself with the Temple by presenting himself as God's definitive dwelling-place among men.(Cf. Jn 2:21; Mt 12:6) Therefore his being put to bodily death(Cf. Jn 2:18-22) presaged the destruction of the Temple, which would manifest the dawning of a new age in the history of salvation: "The hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father."(Jn 4:21; cf. 4:23-24; Mt 27:5; Heb 9:11; Rev 21:22)

2463. How can we not recognize Lazarus, the hungry beggar in the parable (cf. *Lk* 17:19-31), in the multitude of human beings without bread, a roof or a place to stay? How can we fail to hear Jesus: "As you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me" (*Mt* 25:45)?

Sharing and Discussion

1. Have you ever had a severe medical condition? If so, with what emotional and spiritual issues did you have to deal?
2. What part do you think faith plays in physical healing?
3. How can we be a means of Jesus' mercy to people who are undergoing health problems?
4. How do you give thanks to God for blessings received?

Closing Prayer

All: O God, you remember your faithful ones with your everlasting kindness. Increase our faith so that we never fail to rejoice in you. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Leader: May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.