

# Read



2 Kings 5:14-17

Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4

2 Timothy 2:8-13

Luke 17:11-19

## LIVING THE WORD

### Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 13, 2019



#### REFLECTION

The Samaritans and Jews in Biblical times hated one another. You would expect the nine Jewish lepers who received healing to thank Jesus since he was also a Jew, but instead it was only the Samaritan (who was culturally raised to hate Jesus) who proved himself to be thankful. We can see that the Jewish faith of the nine lepers does not make them better because they were not grateful. It can be easy to assume that we are God's favored ones because we go to Mass on Sunday. Instead, we should ask: "Where is my heart?" Some people who do not call themselves Christian live out Christian virtues better than most. Mass is important; but we must let it move us to be grateful, kind, generous, and honest. Otherwise, we are like the Jewish lepers who practiced faith with their lips but not in their actions.



#### ACTION

Sometimes we forget how blessed we are. Our brains are drawn to focus on the negative rather than on the positive, as a primal mechanism for self-preservation. Take ten deep breaths with your eyes closed, and then think of the things you are blessed with. If negative thoughts arise, don't pay them any mind. Make a gratitude list and keep it displayed in your room where you can see it. You can add to it as time goes on. Say a prayer of thanks to God for all the things he has blessed you with.

An instrumental piece called "Life and Death" by Paul Cardall was written when the composer was waiting for a heart transplant and was uncertain about his future. There is incredible gratitude in this song! It is great to listen to as you make your gratitude list.

**"Life and Death" **

—Paul Cardall



[www.youtube.com/  
watch?v=jluCcb\\_iBvQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jluCcb_iBvQ)

#### QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ Am I drawn toward negativity and fear, rather than gratitude and trust?
- ❖ Brainstorm ideas on how to overcome negativity and live with gratitude.



October 13, 2019

## TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### LECTIONARY #144C

2 Kings 5:14-17

Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4

2 Timothy 2:8-13

Luke 17:11-19

## Prepare for the Word

*The following elements may be used by the catechist, teacher, or youth minister to prepare to facilitate today's session with teens. You may integrate this information into the reflection and discussion on today's readings.*

### Leader's Context

Last week, we learned that even a tiny bit of faith can result in the seemingly impossible being accomplished. Today, we hear the story of ten lepers who are healed, and are especially attentive to one, a Samaritan, who returns to give thanks. His faith results in salvation, a right relationship with God.

**Q FOCUS:** *To have grateful faith.*

### Liturgical Calendar Connection

The coming week is filled with the memorials and one feast of familiar and beloved saints: St. Teresa of Jesus, St. Ignatius of Antioch, Sts. Isaac Jogues and John de Brébeuf, and St. Luke, whose Gospel account we are currently reading. Through their writing and the witness of their lives, each attested to the grateful faith that we will explore today.

### Church Teaching Connection

All that we are, have, and will be is entrusted to us by God, and our proper response is to be grateful. Such gratitude calls from us a response, a way of living that testifies to the presence and loving action of God in our lives, and the desire to share this love with others (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 224).

## Hear the Word

*Use this resource, a Lectionary, or a Bible to proclaim the reading. The book should be held reverently or placed on a lectern. If possible, light a candle that is placed near where the Gospel will be proclaimed. Gesture for teens to stand.*

### Gospel Acclamation

*Use the same musical setting that is used in your parish or at school Masses. Teens may help with music and proclaim the Gospel.*

Alleluia, alleluia.

### Gospel

Luke 17:11-19

**Reader:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

**All:** Glory to you, O Lord.

*All make the Sign of the Cross on their forehead, lips, and heart.*

As Jesus continued his journey to Jerusalem, he traveled through Samaria and Galilee. As he was entering a village, ten lepers met him. They stood at a distance from him and raised their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!" And when he saw them, he said, "Go show yourselves to the priests." As they were going they were cleansed. And one of them, realizing he had been healed, returned, glorifying God in a loud voice; and he fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. He was a Samaritan. Jesus said in reply, "Ten were cleansed, were they not? Where are the other nine? Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?" Then

he said to him, "Stand up and go; your faith has saved you."

**Reader:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*Everyone may be seated.*

## Reflect on the Word

*When beginning the reflection and discussion about today's readings, first refer to the handout for today. Ask teens what they learned about themselves and about Christian discipleship from performing the action for the week and journaling. Ask teens about the readings of the day: What struck them? What do they think the readings mean? How do the readings affect their own lives? Then begin the following reflection:*

Remember last week, when we thought about faith the size of a mustard seed, and how, in faith, we may move beyond obstacles and accomplish seemingly impossible things? We also reflected on faith as a gift, and faith as our response to this gift. Today's Gospel shows us what such faith looks like.

In Jesus' time, lepers were the ultimate outcasts. Because of the fear of contagion, they were expected to remain on the outskirts of town. If they encountered anyone, they were to cry out and announce themselves, "Unclean!" Because they were not able to work, they relied on the charity of others, and they banded together for physical and emotional support. The group of lepers in today's Gospel is a good example of this. One is a Samaritan, typically not in the company of Jewish people. The others have tolerated his presence, no doubt, because they need each other.

Rather than crying out "Unclean!" when Jesus passes by, they cry out instead, "Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!" Surely they have heard about Jesus. They may have been told about other people who have been healed by him. Now, they cry out to him, and their cry is heard.

Jesus tells them to go to the priests. It is the priests who can attest to the healing of someone who was thought to have leprosy. All of them go, which is in itself a step of faith. And as they make their way to the priests, they are healed. Yet only the Samaritan returns to give thanks.

► Have you ever experienced a time in which you were cast out, socially or were separated from family or friends in some way? What was this like for you?

Keep in mind that the other nine do what the religious law prescribes. They go to the priests to show themselves, in order to be declared healed and able to be united with their family and returned to the community in good standing. The Samaritan does not do what is prescribed, but does what is right and good. He goes back to Jesus, praises God, and gives thanks.

Our lives, everything we are, everything we have, are gifts from God. All is entrusted to us. The leper in today's Gospel realizes this in a very special way. He cannot stop himself! He boldly gave thanks, and in doing so, demonstrates his faith that his healing happened through Jesus.

Imagine for a moment being the leper who was healed.

► Would your first impulse be to return to Jesus, or to go to your family, tell them your story, share your good news, and say thank you to God in a different way?

► Have you ever been overwhelmed by God's love, perhaps in the beauty of creation, the joy of friendship, the love of family, a moment of insight during Mass? What did you do? How did you express your gratitude to God?

Jesus recognizes the gratitude of the man and declares "your faith has saved you." While the other nine also had faith, this man's faith leads him to a new and wonderful relationship with God!

## Wrapping It Up

*Consider these points to conclude the discussion and reflection. Integrate the thoughts and ideas that surfaced during the discussion as well as the "Church Teaching Connection" on page 46.*

Do you see life through a perspective of abundance or scarcity?

For what are you grateful?

How do you say "thank you" to God for your many blessings?

# Act on the Word

## Gratitude Journal

*For this exercise, have on-hand Bibles, paper, stapler(s), pens, markers, magazines and glue, or stickers.*

Begin this exercise by sharing with your group the many things for which you are grateful. Take your time. Share how each is a sign of God's love and presence. Tell them how your gratitude leads you to respond, through words and actions. Tell a story of a particular experience for which you are grateful. It might be a time with the group, a moment in the life of your family, or your own personal spiritual life. Share a passage of Scripture or two that speak to your experiences of gratitude.

Invite the group to spend time in quiet reflection. Ask them to create a small book with folded paper, which they may staple together at the midpoint. Tell them to find Bible passages to place at the top of the pages. Suggest that they label each page with a different prompt, such as

- \* I am thankful for . . .
- \* I experience better gratitude at home . . .
- \* I am blessed by . . .
- \* I am thankful for this at school . . .
- \* The friends for whom I am grateful . . .

Invite the teens to decorate their journal with pictures from magazines, personal illustrations, or stickers.

Once their journal has been created, ask them to spend time in reflection, using one of the prompts to begin. Invite them to write in their journal, and then to share in small groups of three or four teens.

## Blessed by You!

*For this activity, place chairs in a circle. If your group is large, create smaller circles of eight or ten teens. You will need note cards and pens.*

Ask your group to make a card for each person in their group. Invite them to write brief affirmation statements or a short example of something the person has done for which the writer is grateful. Tell them to include the way in which they experience God's goodness through the person about whom they are writing.

Once everyone has written their statements, they may give them to the others in the group, either verbally if they know one another well, or quietly. If they give the cards in quiet, include soft music and allow time for each to read the affirmations given to them.

## Closing Prayer

*Merciful God,  
fill our hearts with gratitude for the many gifts  
that you empower us with.  
May we also serve you with love.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*

## For Next Sunday

*To help teens prepare for next Sunday's Mass, print, email, or share on a blog or social media the handout found on the next page. The JPG and PDF files are available at [www.ltp.org/lwgr](http://www.ltp.org/lwgr). Encourage teens to attend Mass with family or friends.*