

Here's a text if you've only a minute ...

Sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders. *Psalm*

Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead ...
if we are faithless, he remains faithful. *Second Reading*

In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus
for you. *Gospel Acclamation*

Lord our help and guide,
make your love the foundation of our lives.
May our love for you express itself
in our eagerness to do good for others.
Old Opening Prayer

This week's texts if you want to reflect further:
2 Kings 5: 14–17; Psalm 97 (98); 2 Timothy 2: 8–13; Luke 17: 11–19

Gebhard Fugel: *Christ and the Lepers* (1920). Wikimedia



Jesus was met by ten lepers who stood at a distance
and lifted up their voices: 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!'

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PREGO LEAFLET

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year C, 12th October 2025

All nations give thanks to the Lord!

The readings this week focus on healing, gratitude, and giving thanks to the Lord for his goodness to all of us.

Following the instructions of the prophet Elisha, Namaan, a Syrian general, is cured of his leprosy (**First Reading**). In gratitude, Namaan takes home with him some of the soil of Israel as a tangible reminder that he will from now on worship the one true God.

The **Psalm** is a hymn to the universal kingship of God. The Lord has made known his salvation not only to Israel, but to all nations.

The **Second Reading** encourages us to remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead. Although the person writing to Timothy is in prison and in chains, he is sure that the Lord's good news cannot be bound. Even if we are faithless, God will remain faithful.

Returning to the theme of healing, the **Gospel** passage tells of the ten lepers who are cleansed of their leprosy. Only one of them, a Samaritan, goes back to Jesus to thank him. God's healing reaches beyond the people of Israel.

As **Pilgrims of Hope** in this Jubilee Year, we remember this week all those in need of healing, whether they openly acknowledge Christ or not. We also pray for all who are ostracised and marginalised by society.



Opening Prayer

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.

Second Reading 2 Timothy 2: 8–13

Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

The saying is trustworthy, for:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;
if we endure, we will also reign with him;
if we deny him, he also will deny us;
if we are faithless, he remains faithful –
for he cannot deny himself.

Before settling down to pray, I may like to spend a few moments reflecting on my mood just now. Without judging, I accept the way I feel, trying to focus on the time that I will spend with the Lord today. I know he longs for my company.

When I am ready, I read the text several times until I am familiar with it. If there is a phrase that puzzles me, I put it aside for now and focus on the rest of the text.

I may be struck by the opening words, 'Remember Jesus Christ'. When have I been particularly aware of Christ's presence with me, or around me?

Or perhaps there have been times when I have drifted away, and it was difficult to recall being in his company?

Today might be a good time to share my memories of him, the good and the bad. The Lord always listens and understands.

It may be that just now it seems difficult for me to spread the Good News: perhaps, like Paul, I am bound by my situation.

How do I feel as I realise that the Lord remains free and unbound no matter what?

Perhaps I now go back to any phrases which puzzled me at first. Are they possibly a bit clearer now?

As I close my prayer, I take with me the assurance that whatever I or others do, God will remain absolutely faithful.

Thank you Lord.

Gospel Luke 17: 11–19

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

Before reading this passage, I take time to become still in the way that suits me best. Perhaps I hold a cross or an object that means a lot to me.

When I feel ready, I slowly read the text, several times.

This is a familiar story and I can easily imagine the scene.

Perhaps I look on from the margins or become one of the characters; or I may move from one person to another. I take time to watch in detail ... the lepers, their sores, their clothes, their voice, their accent. I see Jesus, the way he looks at them, what he says to them.

I remain there awhile, quite still. How do I feel?

Perhaps sad at the way lepers are treated ...? comforted by the reaction of Jesus ...? annoyed at the lepers' lack of gratitude ...? encouraged by the thanks of the Samaritan ...?

Eventually, I return to my own surroundings in the present moment. I ponder. Who are the people around me who feel marginalised, ostracised today?

How far can I say that 'the creed and the colour and the name don't matter' to me, when people need a friendly hand?

I may be able to recall an instance in my own life when I received healing and support after being shunned by others. Who did I turn to?

Whether or not I expressed my gratitude like the Samaritan on that occasion, I speak with the Lord about it in my own words, trusting that he always understands.

In due course, and taking my time, I close my prayer ...

Glory and praise to you, O Lord.