

**REFLECTION:** I remember a time when I forgot to give thanks to someone... This is what I am thankful for... I remember... I remember...

**OUR FATHER**

Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us:  
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**  
**R. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

**SIGN OF PEACE**

Jesus, you said to your apostles: “I leave you peace, my peace I give you. Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom where you live forever and ever. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**R. And with your spirit.**

**LAMB OF GOD**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **have mercy on us.**  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **have mercy on us.**  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **grant us peace.**  
This is Jesus, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are we who are called to his supper.  
**Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

**COMMUNION**

**CLOSING PRAYER**

Let us pray:  
God our Father,  
Let us always be grateful for the gifts of life, and the gift of one another. Heal our hearts and help us to live with a real sense of gratitude.

We ask this through Jesus, our Savior. **R. Amen.**

# Give Thanks to God

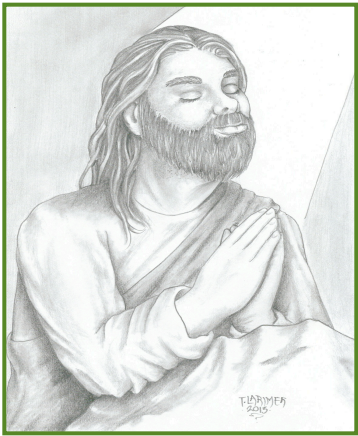
**WISDOM FROM THE CELLS**

I remember the first time I felt like a leper was when I went to the hospital for the first time while locked up. I was 16 years old and was going to get an exam done, but I had to be handcuffed, shackled, and dressed in an orange jump suit. I remember walking into the hospital and everyone staring at me. They were staring at me like I was an animal at a zoo or something. I remember walking through the halls with the staff and wondering what everyone was thinking of me. Maybe some people were thinking, “He’s probably there for murder, kidnap, or some other horrible thing.” Maybe some people were thinking, “It is horrible that they have him chained up like that.” I remember walking like the lepers back in the day but instead of me having a bell and ringing it, I had shackles on my legs telling people to be careful because there’s a prisoner coming through.

But it wasn’t all bad. I remember how nice the nurse was and how she treated me like I wasn’t in shackles. She treated me like a regular person. I also remember an older man coming up to me as I was waiting to leave and asked me how I was doing. I remember him telling me to keep my head up and to never let anyone put me down. I remember him telling me that he has faith in me and he said he knows one day the Lord will let me out. I remember asking him who he was and he told me his name. He was also formerly incarcerated and unfairly judged. I was thankful for this moment we shared.

**- Fernando, who is in a California State Prison.**

**28th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Cycle C | October 12, 2025**



*Drawing by T. Larimer*

**PENITENTIAL RITE**

**Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.**  
May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.  
**R. Amen.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Let us pray:  
God our Father,  
Forgive us and heal us. Open us to your love and life given for free as a gift without charge or regret. Give us thankful hearts. May we learn from you and your Son to give ourselves for free to our brothers and sisters.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. **R. Amen.**



# LITURGY OF THE WORD

## First Reading: 2 Kings 5: 14-17

Naaman went down and plunged into the Jordan seven times at the word of Elisha, the man of God. His flesh became again like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean of his leprosy. Naaman returned with his whole retinue to the man of God. On his arrival he stood before Elisha and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel. Please accept a gift from your servant." Elisha replied, "As the LORD lives whom I serve, I will not take it;" and despite Naaman's urging, he still refused. Naaman said: "If you will not accept, please let me, your servant, have two mule-loads of earth, for I will no longer offer holocaust or sacrifice to any other god except to the LORD."

The Word of the Lord.  
**R. Thanks be to God.**

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

**R. The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.**

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 revealed to the nations his saving power.**

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. The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.**

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. The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.**

## Second Reading: 2 Timothy 2: 8-13

Beloved: Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David: such is my gospel, for which I am suffering, even to the point of chains, like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory. This saying is trustworthy: If we have died with him we shall also live with him; if we persevere we shall also reign with him. But if we deny him he will deny us. If we are unfaithful he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself.

The Word of the Lord.  
**R. Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel: Luke 17: 11-19

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."

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

# MEDITATION: TOUCHING OF AN IMPURE ONE

*(from the eyes  
of peter)*

all my life  
i had been afraid  
of lepers  
as i was talking with  
this diseased one  
all i could hear in  
the background were  
past sounds from  
my mother when  
we would travel  
as she loudly  
said to me  
"don't get near  
the lepers  
they are sinners  
who are being  
punished by god"

so here on this morning  
i was standing by jesus  
as we went up to daniel  
a youth of sixteen years  
whose skin is cratered  
with oozing sores  
the rabbi told us  
the same thing

"whatever you do  
do not get near  
these impure ones and  
never no matter what be  
breathed on by a leper  
because you too  
will become impure  
this disease is contagious  
you can wake up  
one day burning  
with a fever  
with red blotches  
all over your body"

i cannot deny that  
standing here  
next to this

16-year-old leper  
filled me with  
a shaking fear  
having growing up  
hear this over and over  
but as i stood with daniel  
everything i had been  
taught growing up  
i was completely  
disregarding  
in this moment

i looked at daniel  
tears were falling  
down his face  
his body was  
almost destroyed  
by this curse  
i was thinking to myself  
what are we doing here?  
we might catch  
this disease  
why are we wasting  
our time listening  
to daniel plead  
with jesus?

this youth saying  
*jesus i am young  
i have done  
many bad things  
in my life  
i know god is  
punishing me  
with this disease*

*jesus  
i am looking at you  
into your eyes  
and asking you  
if you would help me  
if you would cure me*

no one was  
saying anything  
jesus then said  
daniel

our god is not like that  
he does punish us  
like that  
but you still need  
to find forgiveness  
for yourself and  
find forgiveness  
from others

your disease is not  
due to sin but  
the human condition  
in one way  
being in that darkened cave  
this year has helped you  
reflect on your life  
you were able to see  
that the harm you were  
doing to others was  
also hurting you  
i know you are sorry  
for acts that have  
caused death  
and much grief  
to families

jesus reached over  
and put his hands  
on top of daniel's head

i panicked inside  
when jesus touched  
this young man

i was thinking to myself  
jesus you can't do this  
you might catch  
this disease  
they told us that  
touching an impure  
one can make you impure

but in this powerful moment  
in this touching  
there was light  
a feeling of the  
unconditional love

of god

daniel's skin was slowly  
brought back to normal  
soon he was totally healed  
from this destroying illness

he fell to his knees  
sobbing uncontrollably  
thanking jesus  
promising he would  
use his young life  
after this second chance  
to help others  
and not destroy them

as i walked with jesus  
leaving this scene  
i still was startled  
by this touching of a leper  
i wondered if  
jesus was going  
to wash his hands  
and if he could ever  
enter the temple now  
because he was impure?  
did any religious leader  
see him touch daniel?  
but jesus continued  
walking

peter  
i thank my abba  
that i can be moved  
by the those condemned  
by others  
in this lies the mystery  
of one greater

have no fear  
be at peace  
with this mystery

