

Give Thanks to God

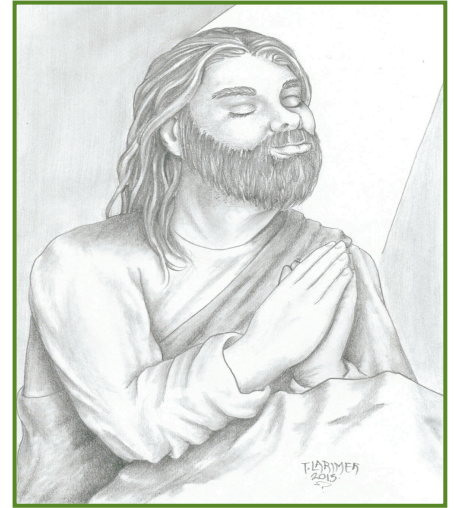
28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle C | October 12, 2025

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.



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



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 Christ, our Lord. **R. Amen.**

