

OCIA Session
Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Thanksgiving
October 13, 2025

Announcements:

- Kristen Hunsberger's Father
- Chris Ponnet
- The Fair
- Homework

1. Welcome & Prayer

- *Would one person from each table light the candle.*

Let each us name a person or persons who are either sick or feeling like an outcast.

- *Lord Jesus, You healed the sick and welcomed the outcast.*

Open our eyes to Your presence among us, and fill our hearts with gratitude. Amen."

2. Sponsor Candidate Sharing

Invite each person to briefly share a moment this week when they *felt grateful*—even for something small.

3. Gratitude Game Compete with the other tables.

- Challenge: **List the most blessings that people often overlook in daily life.**

4. Reflecting on the Jewish-Christian Stories

a. Reading 1: 2Kings 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."

b. Reading 2: 2Timothy 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.

c. 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."

1) Discussion Questions:

- a) What stands out to you in this story today?

- b) Why do you think only one returned to thank Jesus?
- c) How is gratitude an act of faith?
- d) How does the Eucharist help us live with grateful hearts?

5. Types of prayer

- a. blessing and adoration
- b. petition
- c. intercession
- d. praise
- e. thanksgiving
 - i. Enumerate the ways in which we say thank you today and to whom we give thanks.

6. Guided Meditation

6 Reflection, sharing with your sponsor/candidate.

7. Showing Gratitude

8. Homework

9. Closing prayer

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Supplies

- Easel Paper
- Markers
-

6. Welcome & Prayer

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Let each us name a person or persons who are either sick or feeling like an outcast.

- *Lord Jesus, You healed the sick and welcomed the outcast.*

Open our eyes to Your presence among us, and fill our hearts with gratitude. Amen."

7. Sponsor Candidate Sharing

Invite each person to briefly share a moment this week when they *felt grateful*—even for something small.

8. Gratitude Game Compete with the other tables.

- Challenge: **List the most blessings that people often overlook in daily life.** (for example e: a hot cup of coffee, a smile from a stranger, quiet moments in nature, etc.)
- Each group chooses **one unusual or surprising blessing** to present to the full group.

9. Reflecting on the Jewish-Christian Stories

- a. Reading 1: 2Kings 5:14-17

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at the word of Elisha, the man of God.
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1st and 2nd kings was written about the time of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonian invaders in 587 BC. The books of kings were composed to instruct and encourage the survivors of this terrible catastrophe. One of the three major themes of these books, exemplified in today's passage, is that the word of God through the prophets guides and directs people. Today's passage tells of a foreigner who, having received a miraculous healing through the prophet Elisha, gives thanks to the prophet and acclaims the God of Israel. Naman the Syrian, a military commander whose very presence caused alarm to Israel's king Jeroram, Because of the rather uncertain peace enjoyed between Israel and Syria, nonetheless is impelled by his illness to seek out Elisha for healing. We pick up the narrative after Naaman has spathe and has been cured, and learn of his gratitude and his faith. Because of the belief that deities could not be worshipped except on their own soil, and his recognition that Yahweh, though God of all, has a particular relationship to Israel, naman asks for tool mule loads of earth to bring home on which he was to build his own altar for offering sacrifices to the God of Israel.

b. Reading 2: 2Timothy 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.
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Although the overall authorship of second Timothy is questionable verses 8 through 10 in today's reading are probably authentic to Saint Paul. In his imprisonment, Paul retains confidence in the unstoppable power of God's word. The resurrection is a stronger reality than any obstacle that might be placed in the way of its proclamation. The second part of the passage is a quote from an early Christian hymn. Dying and rising to which the passage refers is not just experienced symbolically and baptism, but also in the concrete physical sufferings and dangers demanded by carrying forth the message. The apparent contradiction of the last two lines: "if we deny him, he will deny us" and "if we are unfaithful, he remains faithful" can be resolved by understanding that the faithfulness or unfaithfulness identified here is to God. Jesus always remains faithful to the father and to his mission. Our lapses do not interfere with this truth. Yet the hard fact that some may, in their freedom, choose to deny Jesus, is attested in the previous line. But choosing to deny Christ, some will bring upon themselves rejection."

c. 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."

Today's account of the 10 lepers is unique to Luke's gospel. Leprosy a blanket term for a variety of skin diseases caused its sufferers to be separated from society and was associated with moral guilt as well. Here, as usual in Luke's gospel, the performance of healing is a sign of God's Kingdom. Luke frequently cites the openness of foreigners to the person and message of Jesus, as in this story where the soul upper returns and gives thanks is a Samaritan. The Samaritan prostrates himself before Jesus a gesture of recognition of overwhelming greatness and of adoration. His response of gratitude is the

response of faith. He is "saved" not merely "cured" Jesus contrast his reaction to those who did not return. Once again, ironically, a Samaritan provides the example to follow.

In many respects the story is parallel to the account of Naaman the Syrian. The disease of leprosy is the same. A miraculous healing takes place in both cases. Gratitude it's expressed. And the one who was healed is an outsider to the people of Israel. The story attests to the universal scope of God's will to save and the presence of the gift of faith in unlikely people. They are likewise an eloquent witness to the appropriateness and necessity of giving thanks to God.

i. Discussion Questions:

- e) What stands out to you in this story today?
- f) Why do you think only one returned to thank Jesus?
- g) How is gratitude an act of faith?
- h) How does the Eucharist help us live with grateful hearts?

10. Types of prayer

- a. blessing and adoration
- b. petition
- c. intercession
- d. praise
- e. Thanksgiving
 - i. Enumerate the ways in which we say thank you today and to whom we give thanks.

of the prayer styles listed which one do you use most often? what about the least?

This gospel speaks directly about the prayer of Thanksgiving.. There are 10 lepers

healed and only one returned to Jesus to offer thanks. The one who returned is a

Samaritan. He prostrates himself before God a posture of adoration and recognition of overwhelming greatness.

Enumerate question...

think about the reality that in our society so much emphasis is placed upon individual rights and privileges that we forget God has given us everything. We think we deserve it, so why thank someone for what is already rightfully ours? Yet all is a gift from God. The greatest form of our thanks to God is expressed in the Eucharist, a Greek word meaning

Thanksgiving. The Eucharist celebration is a profound Thanksgiving for the church's experience of the gift of salvation in Christ. Our thanks need not take place only when Eucharist is celebrated, but every moment and every need is potentially A springboard for thanking God.

6. Guided Meditation

Imagine yourself walking along a dusty road, with the sun warming your skin. Ahead, you see a village—people moving about their daily life. Suddenly, from a distance, you hear voices—voices calling out, urgent and full of hope. As you approach, you realize there are ten people standing there, a little apart from everyone else. They are lepers, unwell and outcast, longing for healing, longing for touch, longing for community, longing for pray in the temple, longing for life to return to them.

Take a moment to place yourself among them. Feel their fear, their hope, their longing. Maybe you have known a deep need, a longing for something you could not reach. Breathe into that feeling. Acknowledge it without judgment.

Now, see Jesus approaching. He notices you. His eyes meet yours. There is no fear in His gaze—only understanding and compassion. He asks you what is on your heart. You gather all your courage to let him know what is on your heart. Speak to him like you would speak to your closest friend. Notice how he seems to embrace every word, every feeling you are sharing. After you finish you story, You hear Him speak: *“Go, show yourselves to the priests.”* You feel a stir of hope, and without fully understanding, you begin to walk, trusting His words.

As you walk, feel a change within you. Perhaps it’s a warmth, a lightness, a sense of wholeness returning. Something inside you is shifting. You are being healed—not just in

body, but in spirit. Take a moment to breathe in this healing, this restored life.

Suddenly you realize—you are healed! You turn back, filled with gratitude, toward the One who made you whole. Perhaps, like the one leper who returned in the story, you feel compelled to give thanks, to bow down in awe, to lift your heart in praise. Allow yourself to feel that gratitude deeply. Let it flow through your whole being. Know that this gratitude connects you to God's love and presence, now and always.

And when you are ready, return to this place.

6 Reflection, sharing with your sponsor/candidate.

7. Showing Gratitude

Perhaps during this evening you have thought about someone who you may want to thank.

It may be that you'd like to send a thank you note to Jesus, a parent, a child, a colleague for a friend.

8. Homework

if you haven't already done so I'd like you to consider creating a prayer space within your home. Gather a few things together perhaps a candle or a Bible or a prayer book maybe a holy icon a crucifix. Allow yourself to spend time and that special place daily.

8. Closing prayer

invite everyone to close their eyes. Take a few deep breaths. And invite God to enter the quiet of your heart. Speak to God about all the things for which you were thankful.

God we give you thanks for the gift of life for the people who have nurtured our lives and helped us to know of your marvelous love; For all creation, the great and the small; For the gift of freedom which allows us to say yes to the gift of faith; For the gift of reconciliation which allows us to be generous and forgiving one another period God you are the greatest gift of love. We thank you and we praise you Amen.

