

**TWENTY-EIGHTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

YEAR C

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Loving God,
you have showered upon us
so many good things
that we cannot count them.
May we never forget
all you have done for us,
and let us always thank you
for your great goodness.
We make this prayer to you
through Christ our Lord.

FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

Both of our readings have three features:

1) The dreaded disease of leprosy, for which there was no cure, and which excluded one from the community, is miraculously cured.

2) Both Naaman, as well as the leper who returned to Jesus, were foreigners, that is, outside of Judaism. Thus we see here the salvation of God reaching out beyond the confines of Israel.

3) Both of these foreigners expressed gratitude and began immediately to worship the true God. This is in striking contrast to the "other nine" who were already within the fold. We see here the spontaneous gratitude of those who receive the gift of God unexpectedly.

We have tried to combine these features in our psalm response and Gospel acclamation.

*You are healed because you believe.
All the nations will know you and
praise you.*

FIRST READING: 2 Kings 5:1-5, 10, 14-15, 17

A reading from the second book of Kings.

There was in Syria a man called Naaman who was the chief in the King's army. Naaman had suffered for many years with leprosy. When he heard about the prophet Elisha, he went to ask the prophet to cure him. Elisha told him to go to the Jordan River and dip himself in the water seven times, and he would be cured of his leprosy.

So Naaman went and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan River.

And when he came out of the water, he was cured of his leprosy.

Naaman went back to Elisha, the man of God, and said to him,

"Now I am sure
that your God is the only true God.
From now on
I am going to serve the God of Israel."

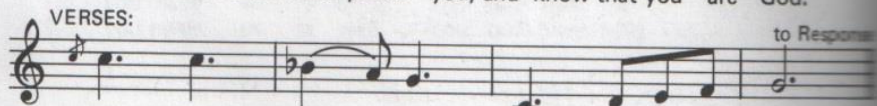
The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSE: Psalm 96

RESPONSE:

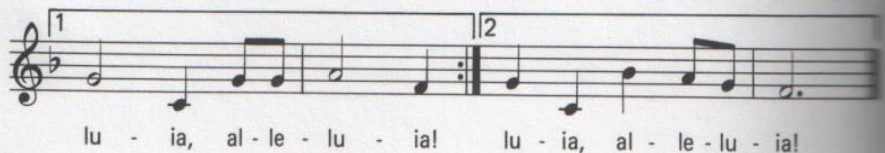
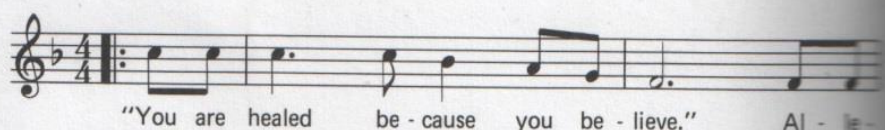


All the na-tions will praise you, and know that you are God.



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|----|-----------|-----------------|------------|----------|-----------------|---------|
| 1. | Give | God | glo - ry. | Give | hon - or and | praise. |
| 2. | Pro-claim | sal - va - tion | day | af - ter | day. | |
| 3. | Tell | the | na - tions | God's | won - der - ful | deeds. |

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



GOSPEL: *Luke 17:11-19*

A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

As Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem,
he walked along the border
between Galilee and Samaria.

When he came into a little town,
he saw ten people who had leprosy.
They stayed back a little way from Jesus,
but they yelled to him,

“Jesus, please have pity on us. Help us.”

When Jesus saw them, he said,

“Go and show yourselves to the priests.”

As they went on their way,
they were all cured of their leprosy.

One of the ten,
as soon as he saw that he was cured,
ran back to Jesus.

All the way back, he was shouting praises to God.

When he got to Jesus,
he knelt down in front of him
and thanked him for healing him.

Now, this man was a foreigner, a Samaritan.
Jesus said,

“Weren’t all ten people healed?

Where are the other nine?

Why has only one person
come back to thank God?

And this man is a foreigner!”

Then Jesus said to the man who came back,

“Get up! You may go now.

You have been healed because you believe.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTING ON THE READINGS
WITH CHILDREN:

Before the readings, tell the children a little about leprosy. Untreated, it consists of open sores on the skin, often resulting in disfiguration. Because it is contagious, lepers were not allowed to live inside the towns and villages. They were completely rejected by the people.

After the first reading, ask the children to recall the story.

- Who was the man with leprosy?
- What was his job?
- Why did he go to the prophet Elisha?
- What did Elisha tell him to do?
- What else do we know about the Jordan River?
- What did Naaman do after he was cured?

After the Gospel, again ask the children to recall the story.

- Where was Jesus going?
- Whom did Jesus meet on the way?
- What did they do and ask?
- What did Jesus tell them to do?

(It was the role of the priest to verify whether or not a person had leprosy. Since they would be cured on the way, the priest would find them “clean.”)

- How many lepers were cured?
- How many came back to thank Jesus? Who was he?
- What did Jesus say to him?

Remind the children that both Naaman and the Samaritan gave thanks and praise to God for healing them. We want always to be grateful for the things God does for us. Usually God does things for us through other people. We want always to say, “Thank you.” Being thankful is a way of worshipping God.

You might also tell the children that leprosy exists today, but that it is treated with medicine. Many people with leprosy (now called Hansen’s disease) live normal lives.