

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

One of the major themes in these readings is to help you appreciate the need for being thankful to God for his help because God loved and cared for both the Hebrews of Israel and the Gentiles of other nations, which includes us.

Our first prayer should help you understand where we should be going.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,

O Lord of Grace,

Help us to move into a deeper understanding of your truth

We ask that these words of life , truth and hope help us grow into better followers of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

R/: Amen !

Today is the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Remember, Ordinary Time isn't a season; it is just a way to describe the weeks between the seasons. This week includes readings that have some important new words for you to learn. The definitions are included here to help you understand the readings.

Vocabulary List

Prophet: person who hears the word of God and tells it to the people, including us. He tells what will happen in the future because he has heard it from God either during dreams or when it is quiet as God speaks to him. Elisha was a prophet and miracle worker.

Samaritans: people who come from Samaria; an ancient group of Hebrews who were known for their interpretations of Hebrew law.

Leprosy: chronic bacterial infection (meaning that it doesn't go away). It affects the skin and nerves in the hands and feet, and the nose, throat and more. The flesh and organs of a person with leprosy waste away like a dead person's. In Jesus' time most skin diseases were called leprosy. A **Leper** is a person with leprosy.

Gentile: refers to a person who is not Jewish. **We are Gentiles.**

Jordan River: flows through Israel from the Sea of Galilee in the North to the Dead Sea in the South. Jesus was baptized in this river and many people were cured by God in the river.

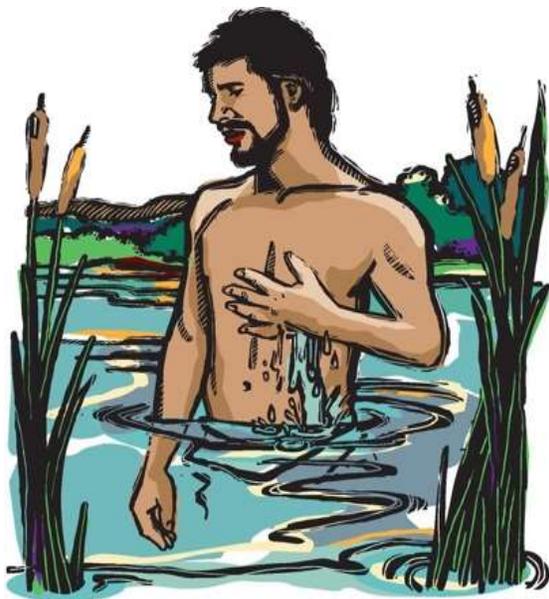
Let us begin our readings today by asking a very important question: Have you ever said “thank you” to God for a blessing he gave you? Think about this as you continue reading.

The first Reading is from the Old Testament (**Second Book of Kings 5:14-17**). It comes from the time before Jesus. It is about Naaman, an important army commander of the Kings army who had become ill with the terrible disease called Leprosy.

Naaman, the Syrian, did what God’s prophet Elisha had told him to do.

He went down to the Jordan River and dipped in the water seven times.

Then he was well, and his skin looked as healthy as that of a young child.



Naaman and everyone with him went back to the prophet Elisha. Naaman said, “Elisha, now I know that the only God in the world is in Israel.

Please, sir, let me give you a gift.

Elisha replied, “I serve the living God, and I swear by him that I will not take a thing from you.

Naaman kept begging him to accept something, but Elisha refused.

Naaman said, “Sir, if you won’t accept a gift, then let me take back as much of Israel’s soil as two mules can carry.



From now on I will give sacrifices and offerings only to the Lord.”

The word of the Lord.

This first reading takes place in what we now call Israel where God’s chosen people lived. They were called Hebrews, also known as Jews. Naaman was not Jewish and did not come from Israel. This army General was a gentile. His terrible disease, called Leprosy, made him an outcast. He could not be near healthy people so they would not contact this deadly disease. For this reason he went to the Israelite prophet Elisha to be cured by his Israelite God. Many people came to realize that God offers his love and kindness to Hebrews and Gentiles alike. This is very important to us because we are Gentiles. In thanks Naaman tries to present the prophet Elisha with a gift for curing him. Elisha knows that God cured Naaman and so he refuses any gifts. Naaman cannot accept this and feels he must show his gratitude in some way. He asks Elisha for enough Israeli soil to take home to his

country. Then he will pray on this soil to show his thanks to the Israeli God by praying on this Israeli soil and giving offerings and sacrifices. Let us look at this week's Responsorial Psalm (**98:1, 2-3ab, 3c,d-4**) and see how it relates to the first reading.

The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

Sing a new song to the Lord!
He has worked miracles,
and with his own powerful arm,
he has won the victory.

The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

The Lord has shown the nations
that he has the power to save
and to bring justice.
God has been faithful
in his love for Israel.

The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

His saving arm is seen
everywhere on earth.
Tell everyone on this earth
to sing happy songs
in praise of the Lord.

The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

Why should we sing happy songs in praise of the Lord? "His saving power is seen everywhere on earth." We must thank him for all he has done and will do.

The Second Reading (**2 Timothy 2:11-13**) is from the second letter of St. Paul to Timothy.

Here is a true message:

“If we died with Christ,
we will live with him.
If we don’t give up,
we will rule with him
If we deny that we know him,
he will deny that he knows us.
If we are not faithful,
he will still be faithful.
Christ cannot deny who he is.”

The word of the Lord.

The message here is: No matter what we do, God will be faithful to us because Christ cannot deny who he is. We must never give up for he will always be there for us. Let us move on to the Gospel. To help you appreciate it, I want to guide you with a brief history so you can understand the Gospel reading.

Jesus lived about 2000 years ago. Life was very different then. There were no cars, trains, or planes. People had to walk or ride a horse or donkey to get from place to place. There were no doctors or hospitals. When someone was sick with a dangerous illness like leprosy, it meant that he would probably die. There was no cure. Leprosy was contagious, and lepers had to stay far away so they would not make others sick with the disease. They were outcasts, people who had been driven away from everyone and could not live near other people. How do you think they lived?

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke (**Luke 17:11-19**)

**On his way to Jerusalem,
Jesus went along the border between Samaria and Galilee
As he was going into a village
ten men with leprosy came toward him,
They stood at a distance and shouted,
“Jesus, Master, have pity on us!”
Jesus looked at them and said,
“Go show yourselves to the priests.”**



**On their way they were healed.
When one of them discovered that he was healed,
he came back, shouting praises to God.
He bowed down at the feet of Jesus. And thanked him.
The man was from the country of Samaria.**



**Jesus asked, “Weren’t ten men healed?
Where are the other nine?
Why was this foreigner the only one
Who came back to thank God?”**

**Then Jesus told the man, “You may get up and go.
Your faith has made you well.”**

The gospel of the Lord.

The lesson from this gospel and the first reading is that God reaches out to help all those in need, the sick, the outcasts, strangers, foreigners, you, and me...all those who need him. And it is important to say thank you when something important or special happens. Naaman did it and the Samaritan leper did it. Show your faith in God by thanking him for helping you.

The Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, 2022

Michaela Quinlin

Questions for the first reading:

- What did Naaman want from Elisha?
- What does Elisha tell him to do?
- Look at the picture of the river. Would you jump in? Why or why not?
- What does Naaman want to do to thank Elisha?
- Why does Elisha reject the gift?
- What does Naaman now believe about God?
- What does Naaman want to take home with him?
- What does this reading teach us?

Questions **and answers** for the first reading.

- What did he want from Elisha? ***To be cured***
- What does Elisha tell him to do? ***Dive into the Jordan River 7 times..***



- Look at the picture of the Jordan River. Would you jump in? Why or why not?
- What does Naaman want to do to thank Elisha? ***Give him a gift.***
- 5. Why does Elisha reject the gift? ***Naaman was cured by God and not by Elisha's efforts.***
- What does Naaman now believe about God? ***"Elisha, now I know that the only God in world is in Israel. From now on I will give sacrifices and offerings only to the Lord."*** Naaman has been healed and now believes in this Israelite God. God offers his love and kindness to all **HEBREWS and GENTILES** alike. This is very important for us because we are Gentiles.
- What does Naaman want to take home with him? ***Two loads of earth so he can worship the God of Israel when he returns home and be connected to the land of Israel.***
- What does this reading teach us?
 - a. ***Jesus reaches out to help those in need. He helps all, the sick, those in need, outcasts, you and me.***
 - b. ***It is important to say thank you in some manner when something wonderful or special happens to you?***

Questions for Gospel Reading

- Whom did Jesus meet on the road.
- Did Jesus ignore the men when he heard them
- Why did Jesus send the 10 men to the priest?
- How many were cured?
- Were they happy about the cure?
- How many came back to thank Jesus.
- What does the Gospel teach us?
- Has anything special ever happened to you where you should have said “thank you” but forgot? What should you do now?

Questions and answers for Gospel Reading

- Whom did Jesus meet on the road.
10 lepers
- Did Jesus ignore the men when he heard them
No
- Why did Jesus send the 10 men to the priest?
There were no doctors so Priests cared for people with leprosy and knew what leprosy was.
- How many were cured?
All 10
- Were they happy about the cure?
At least one was. He came back to give thanks for his cure.
- How many came back to thank Jesus.
Only one.
- What does this Gospel teach us?
Jesus reaches out to help those in need. He helps all, the sick, outcasts, you and me. He will help strangers and foreigners. All those who need him.
It is important to say thank you in some manner when something wonderful or special happens.
Show your faith in God by letting him know you feel his help.