



# DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

700 King Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8P 1C7

## Children's Liturgy of the Word Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Overview

The readings today remind us that gratitude is more than good manners — it's the heart of faith.

Naaman, a foreign general, is healed of leprosy when he obeys God's simple command through the prophet Elisha. But the story doesn't end with his cure. He returns to give thanks and to proclaim, "Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel." His gratitude leads him to faith.

In the Gospel, ten lepers cry out to Jesus and are healed. Yet only one — a Samaritan — turns back, praising God and thanking Jesus. Jesus asks, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?" Then He tells the grateful man, "Your faith has saved you."

The others were healed in body, but this one was healed in spirit — because gratitude opened his heart to God. Gratitude transforms healing into a relationship. It turns blessing into worship. It reminds us that every good thing — health, forgiveness, love, even breath itself — is a gift from God.

Like Naaman and the Samaritan, we are invited to pause, turn back, and thank the One who blesses us. For in every act of true gratitude, faith comes alive, and our hearts are made whole.

## READINGS

### FIRST READING

#### 2 Kings 5.14-17

*Naaman returned to Elisha, man of God,  
and confessed his faith in the God of Israel.*

A reading from the second book of Kings.

Naaman, the Syrian, went down  
and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan,  
according to the word of the man of God;  
his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy,  
and he was clean.

Then he returned to the man of God,  
he and all his company;  
Naaman came and stood before Elisha and said,  
"Now I know that there is no God in all the earth  
except in Israel;  
please accept a present from your servant."

But Elisha said,

"As the Lord lives, whom I serve,  
I will accept nothing!"

Naaman urged Elisha to accept,  
but he refused.

Then Naaman said,  
"If not, please let two mule-loads of earth  
be given to your servant;  
for your servant will no longer offer burnt offering or sacrifice  
to any god except the Lord."

The word of the Lord.

*A period of silence is observed after the reading.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 98.1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4

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

O sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvellous things.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have brought him victory. **R.**

The Lord has made known his victory;  
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.  
He has remembered his steadfast love  
and faithfulness to the house of Israel. **R.**

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the victory of our God.  
Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises. **R.**

## SECOND READING

### 2 Timothy 2.8-13

*If we endure, we will also reign with Christ.*

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

Beloved:

Remember Jesus Christ,  
raised from the dead, a descendant of David—  
that is my Gospel,  
for which I suffer hardship,  
even to the point of being chained like a criminal.  
But the word of God is not chained.

Therefore, I endure everything for the sake of the elect,  
so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus,  
with eternal glory.

The saying is sure:

If we have died with him,  
we will also live with him;  
if we endure,  
we will also reign with him;  
if we deny him,  
he will also deny us;  
if we are faithless,  
he remains faithful—  
for he cannot deny himself.

The word of the Lord.

*A period of silence is observed after the reading.*

*No one returned to give glory to God except the Samaritan, a foreigner.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

On the way to Jerusalem

Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee.

As he entered a village,

ten lepers approached him.

Keeping their distance,

they called out, saying,

"Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

When Jesus saw them, he said to them,

"Go and show yourselves to the priests."

And as they went, they were made clean.

Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed,

turned back, praising God with a loud voice.

He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him.

And he was a Samaritan.

Then Jesus asked,

"Were not ten made clean?

But the other nine, where are they?

Was none of them found to return

and give praise to God except this foreigner?"

Then Jesus said to the Samaritan,

"Get up and go on your way;

your faith has made you well."

The Gospel of the Lord.

## Background

**2 Kings 5:14-17** Naaman, a Syrian commander, returns to Elisha after being instructed to wash seven times in the Jordan, which symbolizes purification and prefigures baptism. Initially proud, Naaman humbles himself and ultimately recognizes the exclusive power of the God of Israel, proclaiming, "Now I know that there is no God in all the earth but — the — Lord." This passage highlights that true healing—both physical and spiritual—requires obeying God's word rather than relying on status or personal expectations, showcasing God's salvific reach beyond Israel.

**Psalms 98** calls "the whole earth" to sing a "new song" to the Lord, celebrating His marvellous deeds and victorious right hand. This "new song" reflects the outpouring of praise for God's "salvation," highlighting worship as a communal act of gratitude. The psalm ends with a universal invitation: "Let all the earth hear, and sing praise to the Lord," echoing the Gospel's theme of salvation for all peoples.

**2 Timothy 2:8-13** urges Timothy to remember the resurrection of Jesus Christ, emphasizing its centrality to the Christian life. He encourages perseverance in the gospel despite suffering, highlighting the promise that those who die in the Lord will live. The passage warns that "if we die with Him, we shall live with Him," while reassuring us of God's faithfulness: "He will not permit you to be tempted beyond what you can bear." The statement "if we are faithless, He remains faithful" underscores the importance of steadfast discipleship grounded in the hope of the resurrection.

**Luke 17:11-19:** Jesus meets ten lepers on the road to Jerusalem. They cry out, "Lord, have mercy on us," and He instructs them to show themselves to the priests. As they obey, they are healed, but only one— a Samaritan—returns to thank Jesus, falling at His feet. Jesus tells him, "Your faith has made you well," highlighting the connection between gratitude and faith. The Samaritan's deep gratitude contrasts with the silence of the other nine. This story emphasizes the importance of recognizing divine mercy and breaks ethnic barriers, as a Samaritan—often despised by Jews—receives complete healing, foreshadowing the Gospel's universal message.

## The Liturgy

### Procession from the main Church

After the opening prayer, when all are seated, the leaders come forward and stand facing the altar.

### Dismissal

**Priest: Good morning. Today, Jesus heals ten men, but only one thanks Him. Go with your leaders and learn about always being grateful to God.**

When most of the children have formed a procession, the leader with the book proceeds to the place of the celebration. The second leader usually walks behind the children. Upon arrival at the location of the celebration, the leader places the book on the prepared table.

### Welcome

The leaders assist the children in sitting and preparing. **Begin with the Sign of the Cross.** Help the children think and connect their actions as they touch their foreheads, shoulders, and stomachs. The leader may say the following prayer in these or similar words.

### Let us pray:

Pause for 5 – 10 seconds

**Dear God, we are happy to be together today. Help us listen well, understand your word, and love one another.**

**Amen.**

Invite the children to listen to the readings. Proclaiming all the readings is unnecessary; however, the Gospel is required.

## ADAPTED READINGS FOR CHILDREN

### READINGS

#### FIRST READING

2 Kings 5.14-17

*Naaman returned to Elisha, man of God,  
and confessed his faith in the God of Israel.*

A reading from the second book of Kings.

A strong soldier named Naaman was very sick.

A prophet of God told him to jump into a river seven times.

He did it, and his skin became clean and new.

He wanted to give the prophet a present,  
but the prophet said,

"All I want is for you to thank God."

Naaman asked for a little bit of earth  
so he could pray to the true God  
wherever he went.

The word of the Lord.

*A period of silence is observed after the reading.*



RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 98.1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4

**R.** Thanks be to God.

Let's sing a happy song to God!  
He has done wonderful things  
and healed us. **R.**

He loves us and keeps His promises.  
Everybody everywhere should shout  
"Thank God!" with big smiles. **R.**

## SECOND READING

### 2 Timothy 2.8-13

*If we endure, we will also reign with Christ.*

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

St Paul says, "Don't forget that Jesus is alive!

Even when we have a difficult time,

God can't be stopped.

If we struggle with Jesus, we will live with Him forever.

If we keep trying, we will be with Him.

And even if we make mistakes,

God is always forgiving."

The word of the Lord.

*A period of silence is observed after the reading.*

## GOSPEL

Luke 17.11-19

*No one returned to give glory to God except the Samaritan, a foreigner.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus was walking when ten sick men shouted,  
"Jesus, please help us!"

Jesus told them to see the priests,  
and while they walked, they became clean!

Only one man, a kind stranger,  
turned back, shouted "Thank you, Jesus!"  
and hugged Him.

Jesus smiled and said,  
"You are healthy again because you believed."

The Gospel of the Lord.

## Reflection

The leader may offer this reflection in these or similar words. Remember the amount of time available to return to the main assembly. The leader may wish to reduce the number of questions. An excellent place to begin is the question:

Mia was a girl who loved to help others. One day at school, she saw her classmate Eli trip and drop all his books in the hallway. Mia quickly ran over, helped him pick them up, and carried some to his locker. Eli smiled but hurried away to class without saying anything. Later, Mia helped her teacher clean the paintbrushes after art class. The teacher looked at her and said, "Mia, thank you for being so helpful today." Mia felt happy inside. It wasn't about getting a reward — hearing "thank you" made her feel noticed. That night, she told her mom, "It's funny — one person said thank you, and one didn't. The one who did made me feel really happy." Her mom smiled and said, "That's how Jesus feels, too. When we remember to thank Him, it shows that our hearts are full of love."

### **When someone thanks you, how does it make you feel?**

In today's Gospel, ten men were very sick. They asked Jesus to make them better — and He did! All ten were healed, but only one came back to say, "Thank you, Lord!"

### **How many men did Jesus heal in today's Gospel?**

### **How many came back to say "thank you"?**

Jesus must have been happy to see that one grateful man, but He also wondered where the others had gone. They were healed on the outside, but maybe only one was healed on the inside, because he remembered to give thanks.

### **Why do you think the others forgot?**

Sometimes, we forget to thank God for the good things we have — our families, friends, teachers, even the food we eat. Saying "thank you" is a small thing, but it shows a big heart — a heart full of faith and love.

When we pray, it's good to ask for help — but it's also important to thank God for the blessings we already have. Gratitude turns ordinary moments into joyful ones.

### **What are three things you can thank God for today?**

## How do you show gratitude to your parents, teachers, or friends?

Following the reflection, the prayer leader invites everyone to stand to profess their faith. Recite the Creed or use the sample below to ask the children to respond.

### The Creed

Depending on the time, a simple profession of faith may be made (see below).

Leader: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

All: I believe.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, who gave his life for us?

All: I believe.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit who lives in our hearts and gives us everlasting life?

All: I believe.

Leader: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it.

## Prayer of the Faithful

Leaders may begin the intercessions by announcing the needs they know. The leader may need to repeat and paraphrase the petition and conclude it with the cue for the response: we pray. All respond to each petition by saying, "Lord, hear our prayer." Sample intercessions are below.

Leader: Jesus healed ten men, and one came back to say "thank you." Let us now thank God for all the good things He has done for us and pray for others who need His love. Our response will be: Thank you, Lord.

1. For the Church: that all who follow Jesus may remember to be thankful for His love and share it with others. We pray to the Lord. All: Thank you, Lord.
2. For our families and friends: that we may always appreciate the people who love and care for us each day. We pray to the Lord. All: Thank you, Lord.
3. For people who are sick or sad: that God may comfort them and bring them healing and hope, just as Jesus healed the ten men. We pray to the Lord. All: Thank you, Lord.
4. For each one of us, that we may have hearts full of gratitude and always remember to thank God in prayer and in kindness to others. We pray to the Lord. All: Thank you, Lord.
5. The leader may invite other intercessions from the children.

Leader: Loving Father, You give us every good gift. Help us to live with thankful hearts and to show Your love in all we do. We ask this through Christ our Lord. All: Amen.

Ask the children to return to the main assembly. Ask them to return quietly and think about what they have heard and are now doing. Be mindful of children having difficulty finding their families.

Liturgy adapted for Children.

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Acknowledgments:

LECTIONARY SUNDAYS AND SOLEMNITIES

Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops 2500 Don Reid Drive Ottawa, ON K1H 2J2