

## Children's liturgy – Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

### Preparation of the worship space

Colour: Green

Props: Coloured pens and pencils.

**Song suggestions:** In the Lord I'll be ever thankful (944, Laudate)

**Welcome:** Today we hear about how ten people were healed by Jesus but only one of them said 'thank you'. Let's think about the importance of saying thank you to each other and to God.

**Opening prayer:** God of grace and mercy, we give you thanks for all the wonderful things you have done for us. May we turn to you with thanks and praise. Amen.

**First reading (optional):** Kings 5:14-17

**Psalm:** Psalm 97:1-4. R. Cf.v.2

**Gospel acclamation:** *everyone stands and sings the acclamation together.*

**Gospel:** Luke 17:11-19

As Jesus made his way to Jerusalem, he went along the border between Samaria and Galilee. He was going into a village when he was met by ten men suffering from a skin disease. They stood at a distance and shouted, "Jesus! Master! Take pity on us!"

Jesus saw them and said to them, "Go and let the priests examine you."

On the way they were made clean. When one of them saw that he was healed, he came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself to the ground at Jesus' feet and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan. Jesus said, "There were ten men who were healed; where are the other nine? Why is this foreigner the only one who came back to give thanks to God?" And Jesus said to him, "Get up and go; your faith has made you well."

*(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation® and used with permission, see details below\*)*

**Gospel reflection:** We are often reminded how important it is to have good manners. When we ask for something, we should say *Please*. And when we receive something, we should say *Thank you*. Do you often get told to say please and thank you? Who by?

By saying thank you we show we're happy with what we've got and we recognise how generous the other person has been by giving it to us. Can you think of a time when you were very grateful to someone? How did you show your thanks?

What do you remember about today's reading?

Today we heard that Jesus gave the amazing gift of good health to ten men who all had an illness called leprosy. But what happened afterwards? Did all the men say thank you for the gift they had been given?

While all ten men were happy to receive the gift, only one of them gave thanks to Jesus and praised God.

This illness can be very painful. People with leprosy couldn't get too close to others for fear of making them sick too. They couldn't even hug their families or friends anymore. They had to live separately to everyone else. Imagine if you weren't able to hug or be near to the people you love, how would you feel?

How do you think the men felt when they realised that they were well again? What do you think the nine men who didn't return to Jesus did instead?

Perhaps they ran home to their families and friends? After all, they'd been living away from them for ages. Can you imagine how excited they were and how happy their families must have been to see them and hug them again?

Though the nine other men were really happy to be healed, they didn't return to Jesus to give thanks for what he had done. Only one man went back to show how grateful he was for the gift of health and a new life with his family.

What has God given to you? (*Give some examples to help the children think if you need to eg a family, friends, all the animals and plants in the world, love, talents, food etc*).

Like the man who returned to Jesus, we should try to praise and thank God at all times for the amazing things that we have been given. When we see all that we have as a gift from God, it makes us want to care for the earth and make it a fairer place for all people to live. A place where all people have enough food to eat.

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For more children's liturgy resources and illustrations see [cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy](http://cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy)

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How will you show God your thanks this week? Will you use words, pictures, actions?

**Intercessions:** *You may want to ask the children to offer their own prayers or you can use the suggestions below.*

Let us show our thanks to God as we pray together:

We pray for the Church: that it may always be a place of healing love which welcomes all people. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for our brothers and sisters in every country, especially those who are ill or struggling to get enough food: that they may find comfort and support from those around them. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may be moved to care for all people with tenderness and compassion. Lord in your mercy...

*Ask the children to pray silently for a moment, giving thanks to God for all that he has given them.*

**Closing prayer:** Loving Lord, help us to remember all the good things we have which come from you. Fill our hearts with thanks and praise. Help us to make sure all your people have their fair share of the gifts you give for us all. Amen.

### **Activity suggestions**

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and to write or draw what they are thankful for under the banner. Remind the children to think about the importance of saying *thank you* each day. Perhaps they could make a thank you card for someone during the week.

Encourage the children to get into pairs, and to pray for each other by saying - *God bless [name of child] always. Amen.* Or they can make up their own words. When they have finished, encourage them to thank each other for their prayers.

Invite the children to thank God this week in the home, at school and with friends. They could write a thank you prayer, for all the things that God has done for and given to them.

Thank you for your support for Family Fast Day this year. If you have not already got involved you can find out more at [cafod.org.uk/fastday](http://cafod.org.uk/fastday)

Remind the children to go home and share all that they have heard and thought about in the liturgy today with their grown-ups. Remind them to thank God in their prayers and to say thank you to others in the coming week.

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\*Gospel passage taken from:

Good News Translation® (Today's English Version, Second Edition)

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