**Solidarity with Sisters’ Communal Prayer**

**October 9, 2022 – 28th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

*“If the only prayer you said is thank you, that is enough.” Meister Echkart*

**HELLOs** and then Betty mutes everyone.

**WELCOME ( Judy)**

Welcome, everyone!

* Introductions: people who haven’t been here before?
* Maryann and I have prepared today’s communal prayer.
* Thanks to the people who will be reading and leading us in music and prayer today: Sr. Melanie DiPietro, Debra Street, Rose Marie Smith, Tim Brown, Mia Brown, Peggy Thompson, Kate Monagan, Charlotte Cook, Sr. Vera Ruotolo, Suzie De Quattro, and Kathleen Cross.
* If you’d like to read on future Sundays, please get in touch.

**SETTLING IN (Sr. Melanie DiPietro )**

Let your breath bring you into quiet so you can be attentive to the Spirit and to each other. Notice your breath as it goes in and out…Let it slow and deepen…and slowly fill you with the peace of Christ…. We begin with 3 deep breaths. One to be here…one to be together…and one to know the Spirit who never leaves us.

Now, **Debra Street** will lead us into our prayer together.

**OPENING SONG – The Summons by John Bell (Debra Street)**“

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown?  
Will you let my name be known?  
Will you let my life be grown in you,  
and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare,  
should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you  
and you in me?

Will you let the blinded man see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean,  
and do such as this unseen?  
And admit to what I mean in you,  
and you in me?

Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell that fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
to reshape the world around  
through my sight and touch and sound in you,  
and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go,  
where your love and footsteps show,  
thus I'll move and live and grow in you,  
and you in me.

**GATHERING PRAYER (Rose Marie Smith)**

Beloved One, we gather today as a community of faith, summoned to follow the path you have shown us. We give thanks and praise for all that you have given us.

How boundlessly you bless, how generously you give, how completely you love, how faithfully you provide, how tenderly you understand, how fully you forgive, how compassionately you heal.

We have come to this table to hear your word with open hearts, trusting that the Spirit will be at work in us.     Amen

                                       Adapted from …. Prayers to Sophia, Sister Joyce Rupp.

**INTRODUCTION TO THEME (Maryann Dolan)**

In our readings this morning the content is similar. They offer us an opportunity to hear from both the prophet Elisha and Jesus, who lived 900 years apart. Let’s consider what their words on the value of faith, healing, gratitude, and relationship mean for us today.

The reading from 2nd Kings needs a little context. Naaman, a mighty warrior with leprosy, is from a kingdom about 200 miles from Israel where they worship a different god. He thinks the power of any god is aligned with a specific area. In this reading we are challenged by the refusal of a gift or reward for the healing that occurred. What do we expect to give or receive when God acts in our lives?

Luke’s gospel has Jesus on his way to Jerusalem. Luke continues the stories, sayings and parables from the days of Jesus’ public ministry. We hear again a story of a leper, faith, healing and gratitude. In these short verses it is clear once again, that God manifests concern for all humanity. The world for Jesus’ disciples was smaller 2000 years ago. We ask what lessons we can learn in the world in which **we** live.

The 3rd reading is based on a homily by our own Peggy Thompson and a commentary by Sr. Mary McGlone. Both reflections lead us into deeper understanding of how to receive the gifts that God gives and open us more fully to the joy of the gospel.

Now, Tim Brown will read from the 5th chapter of 2nd Kings, and he will then offer reflection questions for all the readings.

**READING 1** [**2 Kgs 5:14-17**](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2kings/5?14) **(Tim Brown)**

Naaman went down and plunged into the Jordan seven times  
at the word of Elisha, the prophet 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 prophet 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."

**QUESTIONS 1** *(Pause after each question.)* **(Tim Brown)**

Naaman asked for two mule-loads of earth to take back so he could carry the power of the god of Israel to his distant home. What is it that reminds you of the power and presence of God?

If you have ever had a physical, mental, or spiritual healing, what role did faith play? In what or whom did you or do you place your faith?

What is your expectation of gratitude when you have been part of a healing process…as a giver…or as a receiver?

**COMMUNAL SILENCE**  *(Judy, time 2:00, chime)*

**(Judy)** **Peggy Thompson** will read from the 17th chapter of the Gospel of Luke.)

**READING 2**  [**Lk 17:11-19**](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/luke/17?11) **(Peggy Thompson)**

Jesus continued to journey toward Jerusalem,

through Samaria and Galilee.  
When Jesus entered a village, ten lepers approached.  
While standing at a distance, they raised their voices, saying,  
"Jesus, Rabbi!  Have pity on us!"

Seeing them, Jesus 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, giving thanks.  
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 Jesus said to him, "Stand up and go;  
your faith has saved you

**QUESTIONS 2** *(Pause after each question.)* **(Tim Brown)**

How does Jesus’ question, "Where are the other nine?” affect you? In what ways have you been like one of the nine lepers?

Over your life, how has your awareness or attitude changed toward people of different geographic, political, or religious backgrounds?

In Jesus’ time, lepers were outcasts and were set apart from the community. How might you reach out to the outcasts of today as Jesus did?

**COMMUNAL SILENCE**  *(Judy: time 2:00, chime)*

**REFLECTION 3:** (**Judy Sholes**) **A Reflection, based on excerpts from a homily by Peggy Thompson and from a commentary by Sr. Mary McGlone, a sister of St. Joseph.**

In a recent homily for Catholic Women Preach, Peggy Thompson relates that “Today’s readings are about leprosy—and gratitude.” In 2nd Kings, Elisha instructs Naaman to go to the Jordan to be healed. Naaman plunges himself in the water seven times, and is healed. “In gratitude, he wants not only to thank Elisha, but to pay him—a payment that the prophet rejects. Finally, Naaman seems to understand, and realizes that what is being asked of him **is** acknowledgement of the power of the one true God, who is the one who deserves all gratitude and praise.”

Today’s gospel is about Jesus healing 10 lepers. As Peggy continues “Yet only one of them returns to thank Jesus…only one. We are told that this person was healed through faith and gratitude to God. The lesson….is that God’s healing is unconditional… [T]he other nine are not any less ‘cleansed’ than the grateful one…but it still matters how we accept God’s gift: with humility, thanksgiving, and recognition of God’s power to even the ungrateful.”

Sr. Mary McGlone amplifies this theme in her commentary. She says “We know this story only too well. ... It's all about gratitude, right? Listen again, It's not quite that simple. When the Samaritan returned, Jesus…asks, ‘Where are the others?’ The answer is that they were doing exactly what Jesus told them to do. They were going to show themselves to the priest” In short, they were being obedient…. When the Samaritan returned to thank Jesus, Jesus bent over the healed believer at his feet and said, ‘Rise up. Your faith has saved you.’ Thus, the Samaritan “had not only received the mercy he had requested, but he discerned that something more was in the offering … The man who was saved fell at Jesus' feet, singing loud praises, demonstrating that he recognized God acting through Jesus.”

It appears that both Naaman and the grateful Samaritan had life-changing experiences when they encountered Jesus. Pope Francis tells us that all who encounter Jesus will experience the joy of Christ that is constantly born anew.

Peggy concludes: “Truly, as today’s Psalm proclaims, ‘Yahweh is faithful and has done wondrous deeds.’ What has God done for you? There are miracles all around us. Have you said ‘thank you’ today?”

**QUESTIONS 3** *(Pause after each question.)* **(Tim Brown)**

When have you had a life-changing experience when expressing gratitude, or in an encounter with Jesus, or as a result of a healing?

What miracles, the deeds of God, do you see around you?

What are your favorite ways to give praise and thanksgiving to God?

**COMMUNAL SILENCE**  *(Judy: time 2:00, chime.)*

**(Judy) Kate Monagan will lead our sharing of personal reflections.**

**SHARING (Kate Monagan)**

We know the wisdom of our community includes both words shared and silent listening. Now, if you’d like, we invite you to share the essence of what is emerging within you from our readings and silence. Let’s begin in silence as we gather our reflections. *[Longer pause]*

Who would like to start our sharing? Remember to unmute yourself to speak and mute yourself again afterwards.

[Sharing]

*[Long silences are common, and they can be fruitful. If there is extended silence after 15 minutes:]* Is there anyone else who would like to share?  *[Long pause]*

*[Stop by about 20 after the hour.]*

Thank you.  We can continue after the final song, as we often do.

(**Kate**) Now **Charlotte Cook** will lead us in prayer.

**PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY (Charlotte Cook)**

Now, we bring what is in our hearts to God. Our response will be **Unconditional Lover, guide us**.

For our steadfast commitment to having open minds and hearts to all who are considered outcasts because of physical or mental condition, race, nationality, or religion, we pray**...Unconditional Lover, guide us.**

For our steadfast commitment to find new ways to heal the wounds and welcome all who are suffering into to a full life, we pray**...Unconditional Lover, guide us.**

For the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and all committed sisters and brothers who joyfully, steadfastly, and unconditionally reach out to all in need as they extend their loving and healing touch, we pray**…Unconditional Lover, guide us.**

For all who suffer from war, violence, lack of health care, climate change and the massive destruction caused by Hurricanes Ian and Fiona and the typhoons that have been lashing Japan**…Unconditional Lover, guide us.**

For what else shall we pray? Please unmute yourself to speak, and mute yourself afterwards.

(People offer prayers.) Unconditional Lover, guide us.

Thank you

O God, we give you all our prayers, spoken and unspoken. We will do all that we can to put our prayers into action – while entrusting the outcome to you. Amen

**Offertory ( Sr. Vera Ruotolo)**

This week, name something for which you are thankful, and offer praise to the giver of these gifts**. (Pause)**

Praise be to you, Loving God,

for life and my desire to live.

Praise be to you for the mystery of life

and another chance to live and love.

Thank you for friends

that stake their claim on my heart.

Thank you for enemies

who disturb my soul and bump my ego.

Thank you because I have not forgotten

how to hope, how to laugh, and how to say ”I’m sorry”,

how to forgive and bind up wounds,

how to dream and how to pray.

Amen

**CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION (Suzie De Quattro)**

O Great Love, we are humbled and emboldened

to know that you trust us to be your body in this world.

We are part of that body as we let go of all that separates us from you,

and as we embrace one another and your entire creation with merciful love.

We give you thanks for your presence in and among us. [Pause.]

We remember the night before Jesus died.

At dinner with friends, Jesus knew all that would soon be asked of them,

and, loving them to the end, Jesus showed them how to care for each other

as they went out into the world.

First Jesus washed their feet

and said, “… as I have done for you, you should also do.”

Then he looked at what was in front of them, the bread and the cup,

gifts of the earth and work of human hands, and blessed them.

So let us, too, invite God right now into what is front and center in our lives

knowing that God will indeed enter what we offer – and bless it. [Pause.]

Let us invite God into ourselves so that we become God’s living presence in our world. [Pause.]

Holy One, make us your bread of abundance.

Make us your wine of joy.

Let even our fragments be plenty to share.

Amen.

**(Suzie)** To extend our communion, **Mia Brown** will lead us in the prayer of Jesus.

**THE PRAYER OF JESUS ( Mia Brown)**

Now let us join our hearts as if we could join our hands in harmony with our family throughout the world:

Our Father, Our Mother, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread

and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us,

and do not let us fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil

for the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

**FINAL BLESSING** (**Kathleen Cross**)

May the Spirit of Wholeness be with you,

awakening healing power within.

May the Spirit of Harmony restore rhythms

of body, mind, and spirit.

May Love touch you, strengthen you,

and give you Peace.

Amen

(**Kathleen**) Now **Debra Street** will lead us in our closing song.

**CLOSING SONG: Lift Up Your Hearts by Roc O’Connor (Debra Street)**

Lift up your hearts to the Lord,  
praise God's gracious mercy!  
Sing out your joy to the Lord,  
whose love is enduring.

Let the earth worship, singing your praise.  
Praise the glory of your name!  
Come and see the deeds of the Lord,  
bless God's holy name!  
  
Lift up your hearts to the Lord,  
praise God's gracious mercy!  
Sing out your joy to the Lord,  
whose love is enduring.  
  
Listen now, all you servants of God,  
As I tell of these great works.  
Blessed be the Lord of my life,  
whose love shall endure.

Lift up your hearts to the Lord,  
praise God's gracious mercy!  
Sing out your joy to the Lord,  
whose love is enduring.  
  
**RESOURCES**:

Gathering Prayer: Adapted from Prayers to Sophia, Sister Joyce Rupp

Reading 3 Reflection adaptations are from Catholic Women Preach, September 9, 2022, by Margaret Susan Thompson <https://www.catholicwomenpreach.org/preaching/10092022>

and Sr. Mary McGlone, CSJ, 10/09/2022, National Catholic Reporter.

Offertory Reflection: Adapted from Ted Loder’s “Praise Be to You For Life.” In “Guerrilla for Grace.

Final Blessing: Sister Pat Bergen, CSJ