

PRAYING

We wait upon the Holy Spirit to gift us with renewing grace.

Oh God of pity and of the pitiful,
help us to recognise ourselves in this story
and to weigh the gratitude in our hearts.
As we throw ourselves at your feet, heal us,
and be a wellspring of thankfulness rising up in us
for change and transformation.

Amen.

We meet your Word in a place of mercy.
(Pause) Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We express our thanks for your generous healing.
(Pause) Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We offer up our thoughtlessness and ask for your forgiveness.
(Pause) Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We bear before you all who find returning to be a painful journey.
(Pause) Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We wait upon the work of your Spirit as we say the Lord's Prayer
together:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your
kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we
forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into
temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the
power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with confidence to ask for healing.**
Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with belief and an obedient response.**
Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with gratitude that brings us back
to you.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with yourself.**



DAILY WAITING

Jesus ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there
for the promise of the Father. Acts 1:4

*This service is for use by individuals or groups and can be
adapted to suit your context. Hymns, worship songs and
additional prayers may be added as you wish. Italic text is
intended as instruction, plain text is to be read by a leader,
bold text is to be read together.*

GATHERING

*As you begin your time of prayer, take a moment of silence
to remember and delight in the promise of the Holy Spirit
Jesus gives to all his disciples. Read the following from
John 14 together:*

**I will ask the Father, and he will give you another
Counsellor to be with you forever - the Spirit of
truth... On that day you will know that I am in my
Father, and you in me, and I in you.**

*Make a sign of being present to God and one another – light
a candle, open a Bible, share the peace....*

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people

And kindle in us the fire of your love.

Come, Holy Spirit, be with us as we pray

And leave us not as orphans.

Come, Holy Spirit, renew us in body, mind and spirit

And send us out to be your presence in your world.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people

And kindle in us the fire of your love.

Optional hymn or worship song.

CHANGED LIVES @ CHANGING LIVES
NINE DAYS OF PRAYER 2018

DAY 2: THANKS
Saturday 12 May

LISTENING

Luke 17:11-19

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 he 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 he said to him, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.”

REFLECTING

(The image for this text can be found in the Novena booklet or on www.canterburydiocese.org/novena)

In this gospel story, healing is thrown out almost casually (no grand gesture here) and seems more dependent on the action of the recipients, rather than the power of Jesus. The focus of this event is being healed rather than healing. As the men head off to show themselves to the priest, to receive his confirmation that they are now ritually clean, they look down at their bodies and find the healing has occurred.

The man who returned to thank Jesus was a Samaritan. It doesn’t matter who we are of course, but the implication here is that maybe the others should have known better, and the one who came back was a surprise. Jesus asks about the other nine, ‘where are they?’ Where are we in this? Might we sometimes miss the cue to praise God? Does our diligence take us off to resume our normal lives before we have thanked God for his healing in us?

Often we do really struggle to return to the place where we have known hurt, but sometimes the process of thanking asks us to go back to that place. Perhaps we think we shouldn’t go back, that we need to move forwards, that there’s only regret if we look back over our shoulders. But if we take the risk, this gospel seems to assure us that we will find Jesus still there in that place, offering us even more.

Offering the difference between ‘healing’ and ‘wellness.’ Matthew Henry beautifully observes, ‘The others got the outward cure; only he received the spiritual blessing.’

Did you notice how the lepers at the beginning are all keeping their distance? But the man who returns throws himself at the feet of Jesus to thank him. There’s no space between them now. Do we think of thankfulness as such a physical, almost visceral act? For the returning leper, this must have been a strange moment – having had to distance himself from people for so long, now he could come close to them again. And the first person he chooses to close this gap with is Jesus.

The story has what we might call a happy ending. All the lepers are healed, having moved from the margins physically, socially and emotionally. But as David Lose says, ‘one has something more. He has recognised his blessing and rejoiced in it, and changed his course of action and behaviour.’

As time allows, share your insights with one another.

A Song of God’s Righteousness:

- 1 Bless the Lord O my soul ♦
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
- 2 Bless the Lord O my soul ♦
and forget not all his benefits;
- 3 Who forgives all your sins ♦
and heals all your infirmities;
- 4 Who redeems your life from the pit ♦
and crowns you with faithful love and compassion;
- 5 Who satisfies you with good things, ♦
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle’s.
- 6 The Lord executes righteousness ♦
and judgement for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made his ways known to Moses ♦
and his works to the children of Israel.
- 8 The Lord has established his throne in heaven ♦
and his kingdom has dominion over all.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be forever. Amen.**