

## **Reading 1**

[Sir 50:22-24](#)

And now, bless the God of all,  
who has done wondrous things on earth;  
Who fosters people's growth from their mother's womb,  
and fashions them according to his will!  
May he grant you joy of heart  
and may peace abide among you;  
May his goodness toward us endure in Israel  
to deliver us in our days.

## **Responsorial Psalm**

[Ps 138:1-2a, 2bc-3, 4-5](#)

**R. (2bc) Lord, I thank you for your faithfulness and love.**

I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with all of my heart,  
for you have heard the words of my mouth;  
in the presence of the angels I will sing your praise;  
I will worship at your holy temple.

**R. Lord, I thank you for your faithfulness and love.**

I will give thanks to your name,  
Because of your kindness and your truth.  
When I called, you answered me;  
you built up strength within me.

**R. Lord, I thank you for your faithfulness and love.**

All the kings of the earth shall give thanks to you, O LORD,  
when they hear the words of your mouth;  
And they shall sing of the ways of the LORD:  
"Great is the glory of the LORD."

**R. Lord, I thank you for your faithfulness and love.**

## **Reading II**

[1 Cor 1:3-9](#)

Brothers and sisters:  
Grace to you and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always on your account  
for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus,  
that in him you were enriched in every way,  
with all discourse and all knowledge,  
as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you,  
so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift  
as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
He will keep you firm to the end,  
irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
God is faithful,  
and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **Gospel**

[Lk 17:11-19](#)

As Jesus continued his journey to Jerusalem,  
he traveled through Samaria and Galilee.  
As he was entering a village, ten persons with leprosy met him.  
They stood at a distance from him and raised their voices, saying,  
“Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!”  
And when he saw them, he 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 and thanked him.  
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 he said to him, “Stand up and go;  
your faith has saved you.”

The Following Homily’s framework is based upon a homily given by Fr. Michael Izen at Divine Mercy Catholic Church.

In today's Gospel, are we to believe that the other nine lepers were not grateful? Could it not be that they were thankful, but maybe just too preoccupied to go back and thank Jesus?

Or maybe they were too lazy? Or maybe they were thankful, but just not thankful enough to make the trip back to Jesus.

Or maybe, just maybe, they did come back later, and it was never recorded in the Gospel?

There could be some truth to any of these theories. They probably were thankful.

But how do you give thanks if it's not directed to someone?

The truth is it's actually very hard to give thanks in the abstract.

And yet that's what many Americans will do today.

They will be thankful, because it's 'Thanksgiving Day', but to whom is it that thanks are directed to?

Many won't let God into this holiday.

Even though what happened almost 400 years ago (1621) was that the first colonists in our country directed their thanks and praise... to God.

The whole idea of giving thanks and not having it directed toward anyone or any being doesn't make a whole lot of sense.

When we give thanks, there must be a person or a being to receive that thanks.

Often our gratitude is directed to those we love... our family... those we live with

But today is different; today our thanks are directed to God.

The colonists expressed their gratitude to God, and as a result it has grown into this great holiday we have today, and over the years, people have continued to express their gratitude to God on this day.

In a special way, it continues with our most recent immigrants. Like the first colonists, they are very grateful to have made it to this country.

But there are times when we take God's gifts for granted. There are times when instead of feeling gratitude... we find ourselves feeling overwhelmed.

Maybe today we are too worried about how everything is going to get done, how the meal is going to be just perfect, with no lumps in the gravy.

Maybe we are worried about hosting a large group of people. Where are they all going to sit? Do we have enough matching place settings?

Maybe our concern is that we are obliged to accommodate more than one family, and so we have the stress of having to attend two Thanksgiving dinners.

Maybe your family will have dinner at noon and the in-laws dinner will be at 5:00.

I know from first hand experience it can be difficult to be enthusiastic about eating a second Thanksgiving Dinner within four hours.

And so if we were asked, of course we would say we are thankful to God.

But often we've become too busy to really feel or express that gratitude.

Perhaps we have come to feel we are **entitled**.

Unlike immigrants, or pilgrims, our families have been here for a long time.

We are used to this. This is our country.

My friends, our faith teaches us that “We are **all** pilgrims on a journey,” on Thanksgiving, it's especially helpful to remember that **we are pilgrims**... and the freedom and bounty of our country is still a gift - a gift that calls for our thanks to God.

As soon as we begin to feel entitled... there's not much room for gratitude.

We who are gathered here now begin our Thanksgiving Day, by giving thanks with the Greek word that means thanksgiving – Eucharist.

We thank God for the gift of his son and we thank God for this food we receive from heaven... so that we might be a little closer to God in this life.

Many people in our country today will try to give thanks in the abstract. But giving thanks doesn't work that way. *It must be directed* to a person.

We can speculate that the other nine lepers were thankful for what Jesus did, but who knew? Who did they thank?

Today, our thanks are directed to the three persons of the Trinity.

We give thanks to the person of God the Father, who was made visible in the person of Jesus Christ, and is made present in the world today through the person of the Holy Spirit.

This morning we are thankful for the gift of faith and we are thankful that we have been invited to share the Eucharist, both sacrifice and banquet, where meet Jesus our Messiah king, our Source, our Teacher and the Lesson of life and love.

May you have a truly blessed Thanksgiving.