

# The Living Word

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

14 February 2021

## First Reading Lv 13:1-2. 44-46

*As long as he is unclean, he must live alone, outside the camp.*

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean". As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart: he must live outside the camp.'

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 31:1-2. 5. 11. R. v.7**

**(R.)** *I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.*

1. Happy the man whose offence is forgiven,  
whose sin is remitted.  
O happy the man to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,  
in whose spirit is no guile. (R.)
2. By now I have acknowledged my sins;  
my guilt I did not hide.  
I said: 'I will confess  
my offence to the Lord.'  
And you, Lord, have forgiven  
the guilt of my sin. (R.)
3. Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord,  
exult, you just!  
O come, ring out your joy,  
all you upright of heart. (R.)

## Second Reading 1 Cor 10:31-11:1

*Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.*

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone – to Jew or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved.

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

## Gospel Acclamation Lk 7:16

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**A great prophet has appeared among us;**

**God has visited his people.**

**Alleluia!**

## Gospel Mk 1:40-45

*The leprosy left him and he was cured.*

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.



## Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Lepers were social outcasts forced to live outside the villages and towns. Jesus heals the leper, allowing him to return to communal living, but, in touching him, Jesus put himself on the outer. The Gospel says that Jesus 'had to stay outside where nobody lived'. Jesus willingly changed places with the leper!

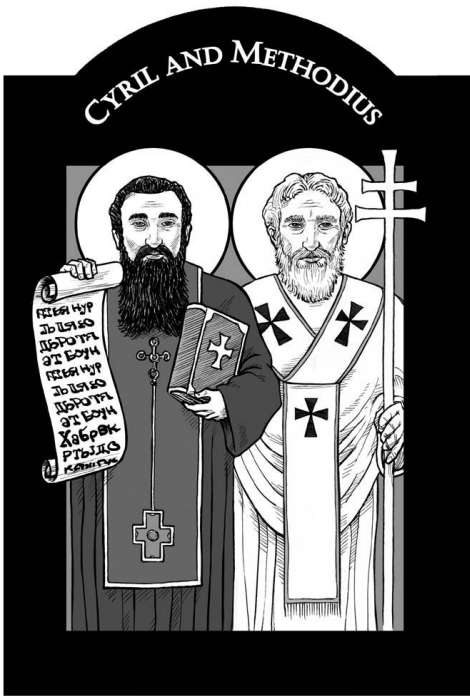
This incident prefigures the deepest mystery and scandal of the Gospel. Because of our deliberate wrongdoing, we are 'on the outside' with God. Our Lord and Saviour willingly experienced that alienation on Calvary, *outside* the walls of Jerusalem, in a desolate place where no-body lived. He suffered the dis-locating consequences of sin in his body and mind: 'My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?'

He took our place outside the human awareness of the loving presence of His Heavenly Father so that we might be located in the right place, *insiders* with God.

We might pause for a moment to lovingly thank our Saviour for leading us into 'the One in Whom we live and move and have our being'.

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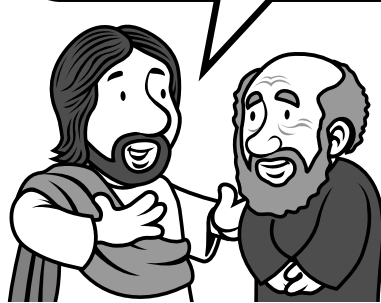
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**S**s Cyril and Methodius were brothers, born in Thessalonika. In their later lives they became priests and in 863 were sent to Moravia as missionaries, where they taught the gospels in the native tongue of the people. At that time, the old Slavonic language had no written form, so Cyril invented an alphabet and translated the liturgy and much of the bible. At the request of the pope they returned to Rome, but Cyril died soon after. Methodius was consecrated archbishop of Sirmium and returned to Moravia, where he was imprisoned for two years by German bishops for his continued use of the vernacular liturgy. Alongside St Benedict, Ss Cyril and Methodius were declared patrons of Europe by Pope John Paul II.

What did Jesus say to the man after he cured him of leprosy? Use the words below to find out!

Say \_\_\_\_\_ of this to anyone; but go and \_\_\_\_\_ yourself to the \_\_\_\_\_, then make an offering at the \_\_\_\_\_ as Moses \_\_\_\_\_, then all will know you are \_\_\_\_\_.



**temple show  
commanded  
healed nothing  
priest**

# Wordsearch

Try to find these words:



- begged
- disappear
- everywhere
- gift
- hand
- kneel
- leprosy
- priest
- sorry
- tell
- temple
- towns

B	H	E	G	G	C	E	Y	M	A	Q	Y	K	N	E	E	L
T	G	P	I	M	G	K	G	D	G	S	K	H	R	E	K	L
Q	V	F	G	G	K	A	L	E	O	K	J	X	I	P	D	N
K	K	M	M	U	M	C	P	R	T	C	R	H	U	U	N	P
Y	I	A	K	V	O	E	P	G	I	S	B	N	C	L	X	F
V	O	N	O	H	M	E	D	N	Y	C	E	S	R	O	D	S
E	E	G	D	B	L	K	C	W	D	S	D	I	L	B	Q	Y
E	B	W	N	O	A	Y	E	Z	R	B	E	E	R	B	Q	P
E	M	P	A	I	A	W	K	A	A	R	E	H	V	P	M	N
F	J	R	H	L	N	N	X	B	E	N	S	G	I	F	T	W
B	Z	Y	F	T	E	L	L	H	P	K	L	N	G	W	H	K
L	L	Y	X	Y	E	A	W	O	P	H	Z	R	W	E	C	K
U	B	W	R	D	O	Y	Q	Q	A	O	W	S	F	O	D	C
V	B	R	F	X	R	M	F	U	S	E	L	P	M	E	T	T
L	O	U	O	E	D	Z	Q	T	I	V	F	T	U	Y	U	E
S	N	J	V	Q	W	S	X	H	D	A	S	A	A	T	M	X
S	M	E	X	Y	G	F	Y	V	C	I	G	U	X	N	K	I