



## OPENING PRAYER

**+In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen**

Father God, thank you for this time with you. May the Holy Spirit be upon me, that I may receive wisdom from your Word, be open to Your holy Will and give glory to You always. Through Christ our Lord, Amen  
Our Father + Hail Mary + Glory Be

## LECTIO DIVINA

Invite the Holy Spirit - Read - Reflect - Respond in Prayer - Rest in Silence

### **Gospel: Mark 1: 40-45**

A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean." The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean. Then, warning him sternly, he dismissed him at once. He said to him, "See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them." The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly. He remained outside in deserted places, and people kept coming to him from everywhere.

Jesus, in His divine prerogative, heals the leper by word and deed. Why did Jesus ask the leper to show himself to the priest first? After the healed man left Jesus, what did he do? How did this man participate in Jesus' ministry? How is this situation similar in our own lives?

### **Reading I: Leviticus 13: 1-2, 44-46**

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "If someone has on his skin a scab or pustule or blotch which appears to be the sore of leprosy, he shall be brought to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests among his descendants. If the man is leprous and unclean, the priest shall declare him unclean by reason of the sore on his head. "The one who bears the sore of leprosy shall keep his garments rent and his head bare, and shall muffle his beard; he shall cry out, 'Unclean, unclean!' As long as the sore is on him he shall declare himself unclean, since he is in fact unclean. He shall dwell apart, making his abode outside the camp."

To the ancient Israelites, bodily impurity was associated with the forces of death and evil, where God's covenantal commandments were associated with life. How does impurity in our life affect our relationship with God? How does this affect our relationship with others? What steps are necessary for us to be established in right relationship with God? How can we strive to remain sacred and holy?

## Notes

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM RESPONSE: I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.**

**Reading II: 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1**

Brothers and sisters, Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. Avoid giving offense, whether to the Jews or Greeks or the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in every way, not seeking my own benefit but that of the many, that they may be saved. Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

St. Paul points out that we are to do everything for the glory of God. He is careful 'not to give offense'. Why is this important? How do we discern carefully in our dealings with others in order to still do God's work? In what ways can we become less and allow Jesus to increase?

Feast Days this Week

11 Sunday Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

12 Monday

13 Tuesday

14 Wednesday Ash Wednesday **\*DAY OF FASTING AND ABSTINENCE**

15 Thursday Thursday after Ash Wednesday

16 Friday Friday after Ash Wednesday

17 Saturday Saturday after Ash Wednesday

**What is Ash Wednesday and why is it so important?** Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season, 40 days where we recognize that in our frailty as human beings, we need the Lord's presence in our lives. In the Old Testament when people were penitent, or sorrowful, they would dress themselves in sackcloth and put ashes on their head. The practice of receiving ashes on the forehead today symbolizes our willingness to enter this holy season committed to the Lord, sorrowful for our sins and with His help to walk in holiness and into New Life.

*Did you know?*

Ash Wednesday is not a holy day of obligation because it is a day of penance and not a feast day.

(Code of Canon Law)

*reflect*

In the work I do for the Lord, am I careful to make sure it is not for my own glory but for God alone ?

*pray*

Father God, help me to imitate Christ.  
Through Christ our Lord,  
Amen

*live*

Be mindful of how you can do all things for the glory of the Lord.