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ORDINARY 28C

12th October 2025

A short act of worship and daily devotions

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Opening Prayers

God of the large and the small,

As we begin our time with you today,
help us to feel you in the stillness.

A short time of silence.

Help us to notice you in the air and in our breath,
in a small smile and a brief nod to another.

Help us to sense you in the rustle of fallen leaves,
and in the gentle sway of late-season wildflowers.

Yes, Lord, you are the God of mountains and oceans,
yet you are also the God of soil and seed.

As we begin our time with you today,
help us to root ourselves in our smallness before you,
and in the greatness of your love.

Amen.

You may now wish to say the Lord's Prayer in a version or translation with which you are familiar

Reading: Luke 17:11-19 – [Click for reading](#)

Responding to the reading

In this short but powerful story, Jesus is travelling along the border between Galilee and Samaria when ten people with leprosy call out to him for mercy.

They keep their distance: socially outcast, ritually unclean, and likely very aware of the barriers between them and everyone else. Yet they cry out in hope, and Jesus responds with compassion, sending them to show themselves to the priests.

As they go, they are healed.

But only one turns back to say thank you. One out of ten. And he's a Samaritan, someone doubly marginalised by both illness and ethnicity. It's this man, this outsider among outsiders, who returns, falls at Jesus' feet, and offers thanks.

And Jesus notices. "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they?" He praises the one who returned, and says, "Your faith has made you well." Or in some translations, "Your faith has saved you."

This is more than a story about being polite. It's a story about the connection between healing, gratitude, and wholeness.

All ten were healed physically. But one received something deeper: a transformation not just of body, but of soul. His healing was met with recognition, with gratitude, with a relationship. He saw the grace he had received and responded with love.

For those of us walking the path discipleship, this story speaks clearly. It reminds us that grace is already at work, sometimes in unexpected places and among unexpected people. It reminds us that healing isn't just about fixing what's broken, but about reconnecting with God, with ourselves, and with others.

And it challenges us to be like the Samaritan: to live with awareness, with gratitude, and with the courage to return and say, "Thank you."

Too often, we move on quickly from the moments of grace in our lives. We are healed in some way – physically, emotionally, spiritually – but we forget to turn around, to take notice, to give thanks. This story invites us to stop, to return, and to see healing not as the end of the story, but the beginning of a deeper one.

So today, consider:

- Where have you experienced healing, maybe in ways that were quiet, gradual, or surprising?
- Have you taken the time to name that healing, to give thanks for it, and to let it shape your next steps?
- Who around you is crying out for mercy, who might need you to be the face of compassion, inclusion, or welcome?

Discipleship means learning to live with open eyes and open hearts. It means recognising grace when it comes, and responding not with entitlement, but with gratitude.

May we be people who notice healing, who honour grace, and who live out our thanks with generosity, humility, and joy.

It is the power of love that will transform our communities – bearing the Light of God into the world around us. It is our calling to be those lights for Christ.

Hymn / Song:

440 STF – Amazing grace – [YouTube](#)

Blessing

Holy, gracious God,
As I go from this time and space,
As I go out into the rest of this day and the week ahead,
I go knowing that you are already there ahead of me
And I go out to meet with you, in the people I might meet this day, this week, this month.
Help me to see the presence of Christ in all I do and am,
Amen.

Prayers and Prayer Pointers For This Week

Monday 13th October

- On this day in 1269 the current building at Westminster Abbey was consecrated. Today, let us give thanks for places and communities that have kept the faith alive, that have nurtured creativity and spirituality, and have been places of sanctuary for those in need.
- Whilst not all of our buildings have the grandeur of Westminster Abbey, we give thanks for property stewards and property secretaries everywhere – if you know one, perhaps send them a message of thanks this week.

Tuesday 14th October

- Picture a butterfly - perhaps you're lucky enough to be able to see one. Butterflies begin life as caterpillars, then undergo a change and emerge more beautiful than ever. How is the Spirit breathing new life into you today?

Wednesday 15th October

- Holy God, I give thanks for this day, knowing that just my prayer of thanks will help me to notice more of the goodness of your glory here amongst me, here on earth.
- Help me to notice your Spirit at work all around us, this and every day. Amen.

Thursday 16th October

- Today is World Food Day – a day for celebrating all who work on providing food security and tackling hunger around the world. It was begun in 1945, to mark the creation of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation.
- Today, you might like to pray for those affected by food poverty, those in our communities who are choosing between heating and eating, and those with a challenging relationship with food.

Friday 17th October

- Take a moment to slowly rub your palms together. Allow the gentle pressure, contact and motion to ground you in this moment and calm you.

Saturday 18th October

- As you get ready to pray, picture yourself weighed down with suitcases and bags. Imagine the feeling of laying them down, and enjoy the feeling of lightness as you massage your aching limbs and stretch out your back. You know you're not leaving the luggage behind, never to see it again, but next time you pick it up, you won't have to carry it alone.