

Season of the Great Lent

Jesus Heals a Man with Leprosy

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Opening prayer

Father of love, hear our prayers. Help us to know Your will and to do it with courage and faith. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Psalm 51: 7-12

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Prayer

Holy and Immortal Lord sanctify our minds and purify our consciences, that we may praise you with purity and read your Holy Scriptures. To you be glory, forever. Amen

Letter Romans 6: 20-23

²⁰When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. ²¹What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! ²²But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel Mark 1: 35-45

³⁵Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. ³⁶Simon and his companions went to look for him, ³⁷and when they found him, they exclaimed: “Everyone is looking for you!” ³⁸Jesus replied, “Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.” ³⁹So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons. ⁴⁰A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, “If you are willing, you can make me clean.” ⁴¹Jesus was indignant. He reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” ⁴²Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed. ⁴³Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning: ⁴⁴“See that you don’t tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them.” ⁴⁵Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere.

Prayer of Saints Peter and Paul

Almighty God, You created us in Your image and likeness so that we love and serve You. By Your Grace, You called Saints Peter and Paul to proclaim the Good News that: “God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him” (cf. Jn 3:17). We ask You through their intercessions to open our hearts so we can generously respond to Your Call by being living stones in the Mystical Body of Jesus Christ, the Church. We raise glory and thanks to You, to Your Only Son, and to Your Life-Giving Holy Spirit. Amen.

Concluding prayer

Lord, your commandment of love is so simple and so challenging. Help me to let go of my pride, to be humble in my penance. I want only to live the way you ask me to love, to love the way you ask me to live. I ask this through your son, Jesus, who stands at my side today and always. Amen.