

# Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Year B

14<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Green

## Prayer of the Day

Everliving God,  
your Son, Jesus Christ, healed the lepers  
and brought good news to the despised and outcast:  
grant us your gifts of compassion and self-control,  
that in serving others in their need  
we may strive for the imperishable wreath  
that you bestow on all who truly love you;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## A reading from the second book of Kings,

### *Chapter 5 beginning at Verse 1*

<sup>1</sup> Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. <sup>2</sup> Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. <sup>3</sup> She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." <sup>4</sup> So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. <sup>5</sup> And the king of Aram said, "Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel."

He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. <sup>6</sup> He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy. <sup>7</sup> When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me."

<sup>8</sup> But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." <sup>9</sup> So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. <sup>10</sup> Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean." <sup>11</sup> But Naaman became angry and

went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! <sup>12</sup>Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. <sup>13</sup>But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean?'" <sup>14</sup>So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

[NRSV 2 Kings 5:1-14]

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God**

### Psalm 30

- <sup>1</sup> I will exalt you, O Lord,  
for you have drawn me up from the depths:  
and have not suffered my foes to triumph over me.
- <sup>2</sup> O Lord my God, I cried to you:  
and you have made me whole.
- <sup>3</sup> You brought me back, O Lord, from the land of silence:  
you saved my life  
from among those that go down to the Pit.
- <sup>4</sup> Sing praises to the Lord, all you his faithful ones:  
and give thanks to his holy name.
- <sup>5</sup> For if in his anger is havoc,  
in his good favour is life:  
heaviness may endure for a night,  
but joy comes in the morning.
- <sup>6</sup> In my prosperity I said 'I shall never be moved:  
your goodness, O Lord, has set me on so firm a hill.'
- <sup>7</sup> Then you hid your face from me:  
and I was greatly dismayed.
- <sup>8</sup> I cried to you, O God:  
and made my petition humbly to my Lord.
- <sup>9</sup> 'What profit is there in my blood,  
if I go down to the Pit:  
can the dust give you thanks,  
or declare your faithfulness?'
- <sup>10</sup> 'Hear, O Lord, and be merciful:  
O Lord, be my helper.'

- <sup>11</sup> You have turned my lamentation into dancing:  
you have put off my sackcloth and girded me with joy,
- <sup>12</sup> That my heart may sing your praise and never be silent:  
O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever.

### A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians, Chapter 9 beginning at Verse 24

<sup>24</sup>Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. <sup>25</sup>Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one. <sup>26</sup>So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air; <sup>27</sup>but I punish my body and enslave it, so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified. [NRSV 1 Corinthians 9:24-27]

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

### The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark, Chapter 1 beginning at Verse 40

#### **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>40</sup>A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, "If you choose, you can make me clean." <sup>41</sup>Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, "I do choose. Be made clean!" <sup>42</sup>Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. <sup>43</sup>After sternly warning him he sent him away at once, <sup>44</sup>saying to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." <sup>45</sup>But he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the word, so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly, but stayed out in the country; and people came to him from every quarter. [NRSV Mark 1:40-45]

This is the Gospel of the Lord, **praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sentence

**A great prophet has arisen among us! God has visited his people!**