

**6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



*A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said,  
"If you wish, you can make me clean."*

*THE GOSPEL. Mark 1:40-45*

O  
Healer,  
wounded  
by our sins,  
we kneel  
before  
you.

Reach out to us.  
Lay your hand upon us,  
and please heal us.

And  
from your abundant pity,  
send us, broken and ragged,  
to fix our damaged earth,  
eliminate the virus,  
end social bias,  
and feed the  
hungry.

Caress your world.  
Use us to  
do it.

**1<sup>st</sup> READING. Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46**

*“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!’”*

Pollution! Covid!

Discrimination!

Trafficking!

O Divine Physician,  
Give us your healing touch.  
Send us in your name and power  
to rid the world of all that is infected now.  
Let nothing in this world  
remain outside  
your touch.

**2<sup>nd</sup> READING. 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1**

*Whether you eat or drink or whatever you do,  
do everything for the glory of God.*

Whether we eat or drink, or whether  
we dig ditches, compose songs,  
feed the hungry, write books,  
count stars in the skies,  
or in anything we do,  
Holy Spirit, let us  
do everything  
for the glory  
of God.  
Since  
in him  
we live  
and move  
and have our being.

Anne Osdieck

## **“Only Say the Word, and My Soul Shall Be Healed”**

### **Reflection on the Gospel:**

*Jesus reaches out to touch a leper; and, by touching him heals him.*

Leprosy is a disease worth fearing. It disfigures and disables a person. The ancient world thought it could be transmitted by touch. For the sake of the health of the community, the law made lepers outcasts; but, even without the law, nobody wanted to touch a leper. The leper healed by Jesus must have lived without the touch of another human being for a long time.

How welcome the touch of Jesus must have been to that leper! And how overjoyed he must have been when he found himself healed!

Leprosy is not the only thing that severely disfigures and disables a person. Sin does so too. And the touch of Jesus that heals leprosy heals sin as well. That is why, at mass, we pray, “Only say the word, and my soul shall be healed.” We would be so overjoyed if you just said the word! Your healing would be so welcome to us!

But we say those words at every mass, week after week, year after year. And still we struggle with our sins. Why do we have to keep asking for the Lord’s healing touch at every mass?

But think about it this way: Why should we think that we are in a position to see the healing that the Lord does in our lives? Why would we think that we are in a position to judge how far we have come in conquering the sin in ourselves? The Lord tells us not to judge others ([Mt 7:1](#)). Why should we think we are able to judge ourselves?

So we do not have to see the effects of the healing touch of the Lord in order for it to do its work. The touch of the Word, for whose healing word we pray at every mass, does its healing deep within. Our job is to be open to that touch.

Eleonore Stump