

The Gift from God

Romans 6:12-23

New Testament Reading

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

When God created Adam and Eve, He made them perfect. The Garden of Eden was their perfect home where He intended for them to live peacefully and happily forever.

However, God also gave Adam and Eve a free will. This means they had control over their decisions. If they chose to please the Lord, they could. If they decided to sin, they could. Do you remember the story? Adam and Eve sinned. They ate the fruit God had told them not to eat.



Just because they were able to choose sin, doesn't mean there weren't consequences to their actions. They sinned, so they had to leave the perfect garden God had made for them. Not only that, but *we* are stained with their sin.

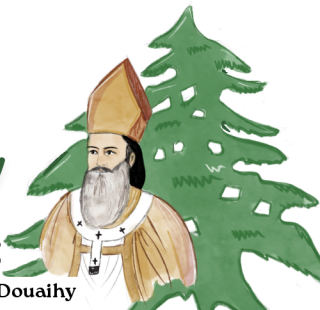
God cannot have sin in Heaven since sin is to be far from Him. Because we are stained with Adam and Eve's sin and the sins we choose to commit ourselves, we deserve death. We deserve to be separated from God forever.

But our Heavenly Father doesn't want that! So He sent Jesus, His perfect Son, to redeem us by dying on the cross and overcoming death. If we acknowledge and believe this and receive the Mysteries of Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Communion, and Confession, and do our best to live holy lives, we do not have to be separated from God forever. This is the Gift that God has given to us!

Lenten Memory Verse

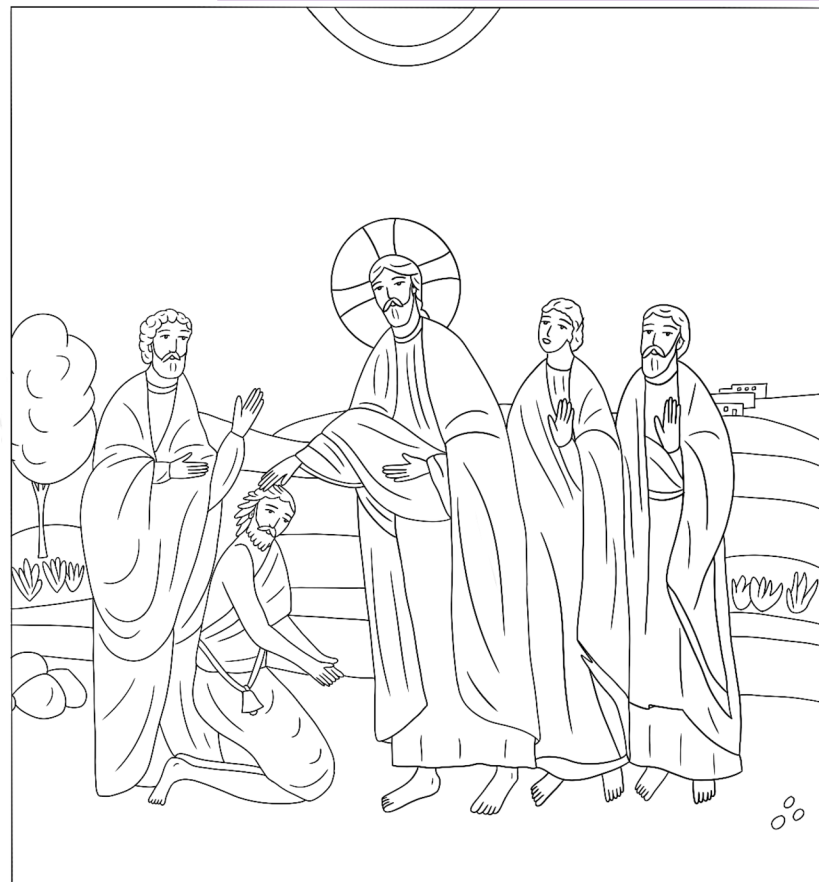
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but the gift of God is eternal life in
Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23*

Cedar Kids



The Way of Blessed Estephan Douaihy

2nd Sunday of Great Lent
The Healing of the Leper, Vol 2, No.22



Christ healed him and made him clean.
Now we too in faith cry out:
"Come, Lord Jesus, heal our souls!"





Gospel Corner

Mark
1:35-45

Have you ever seen a person with leprosy before? Probably not as there are only around 200,000 cases in the world today! So what is leprosy exactly? It is a horrible disease that primarily affects a person's skin, creating sores and lesions and growths all over their body. Therefore, it is a very visible disease to anyone who sees a person with leprosy.



In Biblical times, a person who had leprosy was considered "unclean", both physically and spiritually. They had to live in camps outside the city, away from normal life with the people. They weren't even allowed to go into the Temple and synagogues to worship God! If a person happened to touch someone with leprosy, they were considered spiritually unclean until they performed proper purification rituals.

Also during Biblical times, leprosy was seen as a sign that a person was a sinner. To the Jewish people, a person who got leprosy must have sinned and offended God, and therefore only God could cure it!

When a leper went to Jesus and asked for healing, we hear how Jesus touched the man and cured him. Jesus did not need to perform any purification rituals afterwards because He is God - and as God He can cure us both physically and spiritually. But most of all, Jesus wants us to be in a right relationship with Him. Now that the man was cured of his leprosy, he could once again enter the Temple and synagogues and worship the one true Lord God!



Did you know?

VOCAL PRAYER

Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God. The Church recognizes three kinds of prayer: vocal prayer, meditation, and contemplation.

Most of our prayers are vocal using spoken words, aloud or mentally, to communicate with God. This includes traditional prayers, liturgical prayers, and the Rosary.

What you can do

Romans
6:23

Trace and memorize this week's Lenten Memory Verse.

Pray in a quiet place each morning this week, as Jesus did in today's Gospel reading.



Spot the Difference

Find 5 differences between the pictures below.

