THE SECOND LESSON

An excerpt from the Bishops' joint statement issued June 16, 2025.

"Dear faithful in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,

As your bishops, we have committed ourselves to the spiritual work of racial reconciliation. This includes, but is not limited to, the irreparable harm done to native people, lands and culture begun by European colonists in the 17th century.

The Episcopal Church formally repudiated the Doctrine of Discovery in 2009 rejecting the flawed theology that put God on the side of death and destruction, but the generational trauma of cultural genocide has not been publicly addressed by the church in the Commonwealth. We address it here in the hope of the Easter event and in faith, with humility. We invite you to be part of the work of repair.

For generations we have lived, worshipped and engaged God's mission on the unceded land of native peoples. From the coastal lands of the Wampanoag, Pokanoket, Massachusett and Patuxet, to the central lands of the Nipmuc and Agawam and to the western lands of the Pocumtuc, Nonotuck, Mohican and the Dawnland Confederacy, the artificial borders of states and dioceses have largely ignored the rights of the first people of this place. We wish for this ignorance to end in our time.

Since 2022, our two dioceses have shared a joint recognition of Indigenous Peoples' Day. In 2025, this gathering will mark the 350th anniversary of the beginning of Metacomet's Rebellion (King Philip's War) with a pilgrimage on Monday, October 13, to Deer Island, MA – the internment site where hundreds of Native people from the "praying towns" died from exposure and starvation in the winter of 1675-1676.

As we prepare for this landmark commemoration, we call on all of our worshipping communities to mark Sunday, October 12, 2025, as a Day of Remembrance and Lamentation for the anguish caused by the expulsion, enslavement, and genocide of Native people across our Commonwealth."

Reader: Hear what the spirit is saying to God's people.
People: Thanks be to God.

Today we are using the First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament for the Gospel.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 17:11-19

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

On his way to Village of Peace (Jerusalem), Creator Sets Free (Jesus) took the path following the border between High Place (Samaria) and Circle of Nations (Galilee). He went into a small village where ten men with a skin disease came across his path.
They kept a respectful distance from him and called loudly, "Creator Sets Free! Honored One!" They pleaded, "Have pity on us!"

Creator Sets Free looked at them and said, "Go to the holy men and show yourselves to them."

[Tribal law instructed that a person healed of a skin disease must be pronounced ceremonially clean by a holy man.]

They did what he said, and as they were on the way, they were healed. One of the ten men, when he saw he was healed, returned to Creator Sets Free, giving loud praise to the Great Spirit. He then bowed down to honor Creator Sets Free and offered him thanks. This man was from High Place.

[All the people from there were despised and looked down on by the tribes of Wrestles with Creator (Israel).]

Creator Sets Free said to those who were watching, "Were not ten men healed? Where then are the other nine? Was the only one who returned to give thanks and honor to the Great Spirit an outsider from High Place?"

Then he said to the man, "Stand up and be on your way. Your trust in me has healed you."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.