

World Day of the Sick

A Service of Prayer



*When I visit hospitals and treatment centres....
I particularly like to pause beside the patients,
their relatives and the health-care personnel.
These places are like shrines where people
participate in Christ's paschal mystery.*

John Paul II

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LITURGY

OPENING RITE

Gathering Song —

Welcome —

Opening Prayer —

Creator God, as we rejoice in your gift of health
may we be mindful of those
who are steeped in the more difficult gift of sickness.
It too is part of the divine mystery of our salvation.
Give meaning to their sickness and suffering
and help them unite it to the suffering of Christ
– a suffering that draws goodness out of evil, and
calls people to appreciate the simple pleasures that life offers each day.

Bless those who care for those who are sick: family members and caregivers,
professional health care workers and support staff, those who provide
spiritual/religious care and all volunteers.

AMEN

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading — *Isaiah 42:6-7*

I, Yahweh, have called you to serve the cause of right;
I have taken you by the hand and formed you;
I have appointed you as a covenant of the people and light of the nations,
to open the eyes of the blind,
to free captives from prison,
and to those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

The Word of the Lord

R. Thanks be to God



Psalm — *Psalm 27*

Response: Put your hope in the Lord; take courage!

The Lord is my light and my help
whom then shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life
before whom then need I shrink? **R.**

The Lord keeps me safe in a tent
during difficult times.
Sheltering and protecting me
in a safe place. **R.**

O Lord hear my voice when I call out to you,
hide not your face from me.
Do not dismiss your servant's needs
for you have been my help. **R.**

Gospel — *Mark 2: 8-12*

Jesus said, “Which of these is easier: to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven’ or to say ‘Get up, pick up your stretcher and walk?’ But to prove to you that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” — he said to the paralytic — “I order you: get up, pick up your stretcher, and go off home.” And the man got up, picked up his stretcher at once and walked out in front of everyone, so that they all were astounded and praised God saying, “We have never seen anything like this.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Leader: God of Comfort, God of Healing, hear the prayers of your people as we celebrate World Day of the Sick.

All: We turn to you with confidence.

Leader: For those who feel overwhelmed by their sickness and pain.

All: We turn to you with confidence.

Leader: For those who are dying in our hospitals and homes.

All: We turn to you with confidence.

Leader: For those who are dedicated to care for the sick.

All: We turn to you with confidence.

Leader: That each person in this country will have access to compassionate and just health care, especially those who are in most need.

All: We turn to you with confidence.

An opportunity is given for those present to share their own petitions.

Leader: Lord we bring all these prayers before you — those we have expressed and those deep in our hearts. We are confident that you hear and answer them through Christ our Lord.

AMEN

Lord's Prayer —

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Gracious God, search our hearts and ascertain what need is most urgent, what healing most necessary, what wound most painful. Then in your loving kindness, soothe our worry, answer our need and heal our affliction.

Help us to see you and to serve you in all those who are sick.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN

