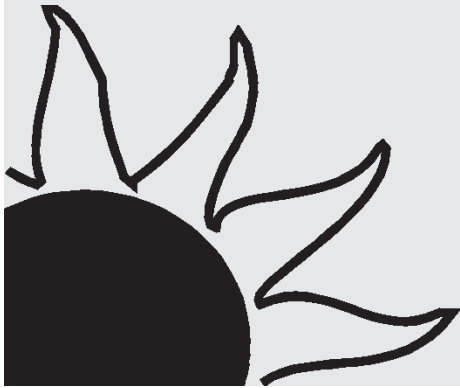


World Day of the Sick

A Service of Prayer



Suffering ~

opens
new horizons
of meaning

FEBRUARY 11, 2002

Produced by the
Catholic Health Association of Canada
www.chac.ca

LITURGY

OPENING RITE

Gathering Song —

Welcome —

Opening Prayer —

God of Comfort and Healing

When a man builds a house, his sweat and sore muscles
are relieved when he sees the work completed;

When a mother gives birth to a child, seeing her child
makes the pain all worth it;

We often hear that “Everything has a reason.”

Help us believe that our sickness and suffering
opens up new horizons of meaning in our lives.

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 — *Romans 5:3-6*

But that is not all we can boast about; we can boast about our suffering.
These sufferings bring patience, as we know, and patience brings persever-
ance. and perseverance brings hope, and this hope is not deceptive, because
the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which
has been given us.

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 — *John 16:20-22*

Jesus said:

“I tell you solemnly, you will be weeping and wailing
while the world will rejoice;
you will be sorrowful, but yours sorrow will turn to joy.
A woman in childbirth suffers because her time has come;
but when she has given birth she forgets the suffering
in her joy that a child has been born into the world.
So it is with you: you are sad now,
but I shall see you again, and your hearts will be full of joy,
and that joy no one shall take from you.”

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