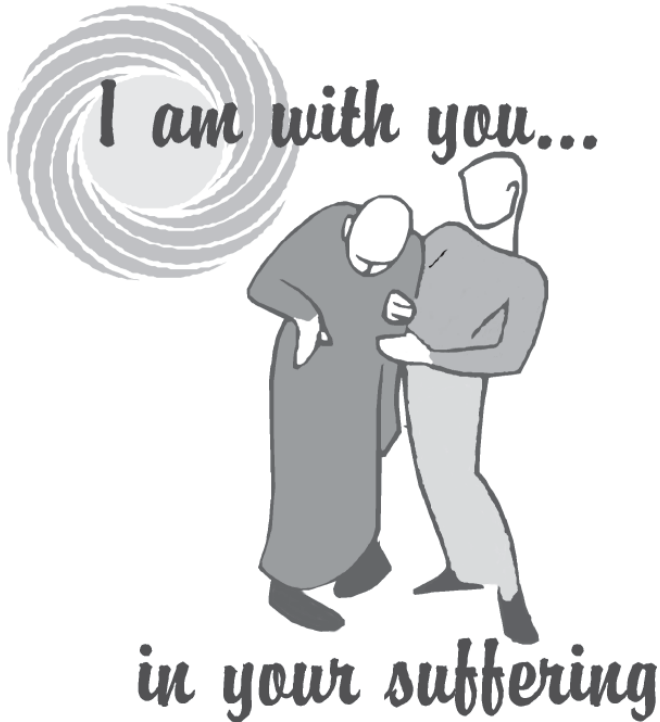


# *World Day of the Sick*

A Service of Prayer



**FEBRUARY 11, 2003**

Produced by the  
Catholic Health Association of Canada  
[www.chac.ca](http://www.chac.ca)

# LITURGY

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## OPENING RITE

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Gathering Song —

Welcome —

Opening Prayer —

Faithful God of the ages,  
You are close to us  
even when it does not feel like it.

Hear our prayers for those who are sick among us,  
and for all those in need.

In their physical and mental suffering may they find  
consolation in your healing presence.

Show your love to them as you heal wounds,  
cure illness, and make broken bodies whole.  
Free their hearts of sadness  
and give them the courage to hope.

AMEN

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## LITURGY OF THE WORD

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Gospel —

*Matthew 9:20-22*

Then from behind him came a woman, who had suffered from a haemorrhage for twelve years, and she touched the fringe of his cloak, for she said to herself, "If I can only touch his cloak I shall be well again." Jesus turned around and saw her and he said to her, "Courage, my daughter, your faith has restored you to health." And from that moment on the woman was well again.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

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## LAYING ON OF HANDS

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All those who seek healing of body and spirit are asked to come forward to receive the laying on of hands. (Create as many stations as space permits and the numbers warrant.) Two hands are placed on the sick person's head or shoulders. The following prayer is recited as each person presents themselves.

*May the God of healing walk with you, console you and bring you peace.*

### **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 hospitals, long term care facilities and in their homes.

All: We turn to you with confidence.

Leader: For those who are dedicated to care of 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

### **Blessing of the Caregivers —**

All those who care for the sick (health care professionals, family members, volunteers) are asked to stand. Those assembled stretch out a hand and say.

*Creator God – we are grateful for these caregivers who serve us in our need. May the God of healing provide you wisdom and skill, give you a compassionate heart, and grant you peace and rest when it is needed in your lives. Amen*

### **Lord's Prayer —**

### **Concluding Prayer —**

Gracious God, search our hearts and discern 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