

# *World Day of the Sick*

A Service of Prayer



**FEBRUARY 11, 2008**

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 —**

Lord God,  
Your love is the fire that gives me energy  
and hope to go on when I am tired;  
Your love is the flame that warms my heart  
when I feel alone;  
Your love is the hearth that gathers my family  
together for comfort and support;  
Your love enkindles the compassion,  
wisdom and skill of my caregivers.  
Your healing light never goes out;  
Your love never ends;  
For this I am grateful.

AMEN

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## LITURGY OF THE WORD

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**Matthew 25:34-37**

Jesus said: “Come, you whom my Father has blessed... For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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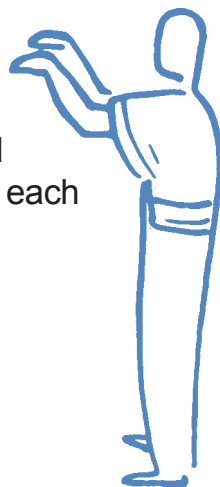
## LAYING ON OF HANDS

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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. Two hands are placed on the sick person's head or shoulders. Recite the following prayer as each person presents themselves.

*May the God, who heals both body and spirit lift you up and bring you comfort.*

The *Sacrament of the Sick* may also be administered at this time.



### **Prayer of the Faithful —**

Leader: For those in our cities who are needy and who often seem invisible. We pray....

All: *Give us eyes to see them and hands to respond!*

Leader: For patients in our hospitals and residents in our long-term care facilities, especially those suffering from dementia. We pray....

All: *Give us eyes to see them and hands to respond!*

Leader: For those who suffer from mental illness whether in a family setting or alone wandering our streets. We pray....

All: *Give us eyes to see them and hands to respond!*

Leader: For family members and caregivers who provide the love, encouragement and compassion needed for healing. We pray....

All: *Give us eyes to see them and hands to respond!*

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

Leader: Lord, hear our prayers this day. Help us to be aware that the smallest act of kindness (even when no one else knows about it) makes a difference to those who receive it, and ultimately to the kind of world you help us create. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN

### **Blessing of the Caregivers —**

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

*Bless those who care for the sick, both at home and in hospitals and long-term care facilities. We thank you for their professional expertise and for their commitment to compassionate care. Bless their desire to upgrade their skills. Give them wisdom and a spirit of collaboration as they work with other health care professionals. AMEN*

### **The Lord's Prayer —**

### **Concluding Prayer —**

Healer God, each of us knows that facing sickness and frailty is part of being human. However, facing those realities is not easy. Give us courage to accept the limits of our body, and comfort in knowing the boundless strength of our spirit. With your grace we can endure suffering with dignity and hope. Help us to make every effort so that no one suffers alone. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN