

## Prepare with Prayer

*The Lord renews our hopes  
and heals our bodies.  
He fills the sky with clouds  
and sends rain to the earth,  
so that the hills  
will be green with grass.  
The Lord is pleased only  
with those who worship him  
and trust his love.*

Psalm 147:3, 8, 11

### Today's Readings

Job 7:1-4, 6-7

Psalm 147:1, 4, 5, 7

1 Corinthians 9:16-18

Mark 1:29-39

*Jesus came to earth to heal us in body,  
mind, and spirit.*

The Gospel focuses on Jesus as a physical and spiritual healer. While his acts of mercy free people in the here-and-now from pain and suffering, they also show what the coming reign of God will be like.

It will be a time when God will wipe away forever all tears, a time when "there will be no more death, suffering, crying, or pain" (Revelation 21:4). Thus, the cures that Jesus works accomplish both immediate and ultimate purposes.

## Scripture Background

To a person of faith, it is no surprise when psychological insight and spiritual wisdom intersect. Mental health professionals say that honest expression of feelings is important to the total healing of persons dealing with major loss.

Spiritual leaders say that emotional honesty is an essential part of authentic prayer, even if the emotions include anger at God or disappointment in God's seeming indifference.

Today's reading from the Book of Job shows a man deeply afflicted but well on his way to wholeness because he is able to turn his agony over to God.

In today's reading from 1 Corinthians, Paul discusses his rights as an apostle. Strictly speaking, he *is* entitled to complete financial support by the communities to whom he preaches. Nevertheless, he decides to support himself with part-time work as a tent maker.

For Paul, spreading the Gospel is a God-given mission that should not be compromised by any expectations that wealthy patrons might attempt to impose on him. He thus shows in his ministry the same unflinching integrity that Job shows in his prayer.

## Pantomime the Gospel

To make today's Gospel a little more dramatic, let the children pantomime it as you read it aloud.

- On the right side of the staging area, place a large drawing of a stick house to represent the Jewish meeting place.
- In the middle, place a drawing of a smaller stick house to represent Simon Peter's home.
- On the floor, place a mat for Peter's sick mother-in-law.
- On the left side of the staging area, place a drawing of a cactus to represent the desert.

Start with a girl lying on the mat at Peter's and everyone else at the Jewish meeting house. When the action shifts to Peter's house, all the boys will go there. One boy, in the role of Jesus, will cure the girl. Then the remaining girls will go to Peter's seeking cures, also. When the action shifts to the desert, Jesus will go first, then be joined by his friends.

## Relationship to Children

When you lead today's Gathering activity, some children may bring up, however generally, traumatic past events that have touched their lives. Don't worry if this happens.

### This Week's Preparation

In the worship space, on a table draped with a green cloth, place:

- a lectionary
- a candle
- a brown paper bag
- a felt-tip marker

For Homily, have ready a copy of Mary Stevenson's poem, "Footprints in the Sand." (If you don't have a printed copy, you can find it at this website: [footprints-in-the-sand.com](http://footprints-in-the-sand.com).)

Dr. Linda Garris Christian, a professor of education who specializes in early childhood, notes that because their grief is cyclical, children need to revisit old hurts time and again in order to heal properly. During each new stage of grieving, simply talking out their feelings is a benefit to them. (For other insights, see the article "Children and Grief" at [aacap.org](http://aacap.org), the official website of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.)

All troubles great and small can be more easily processed if children are encouraged to talk honestly about them. It also helps them to use art, music, and rituals to express their feelings surrounding their sad experiences.

When you are with the children today, be a good listener. Take seriously each hurt that a child contributes to the opening discussion, even if it concerns something you consider minor or trivial.

People without pets, for example, may not realize how deep the grief runs in a family that has lost an animal friend. For many children, the loss of a pet is the first big loss in their lives.

It is also important, experts say, to help children see that good can come from bad and that people can survive unbelievably painful experiences. Sometimes only the passage of time helps a person find the silver lining in a black cloud, but at any moment during the grieving process one can learn about endurance by observing others who handle crisis and loss with grace.

Some of the great heroes of our faith show all that the human spirit can endure when aided by the Holy Spirit.

### Music

See page 62 for more information.

**Gathering:** "Be Merciful, O Lord" by Steve Angrisano

**Psalm:** "Psalm 147: Bless the Lord, My Soul" by Marty Haugen (*Psalms for the Church Year*. GIA)

**Gospel Acclamation:** "Alleluia" by Steve Angrisano

### Children's Leaflet

Recognizing those who carry on Jesus' healing ministry is the focus for this week's family activity. A Word Search puzzle encourages children to read Bible stories.

Look at the shape of this puzzle. What symbol of faith and health do you see? Jesus healed many people. Find some of them in the puzzle below. Then read their stories in your Bible.

A	B	L	I	N	D	M	A	N												
H	S	I	O	D	W	H	A	S												
L	E	T	D	P	S	F	I	E												
N	Z	A	O	C	E	B	O	E												
O	C	Y	L	O	D	N	A	S												
T	E	N	L	E	P	E	R	S												
B	M	S	G	N	H	P	L	B	V	X	D	E	S	N	A	E	L	C	S	W
K	L	I	V	E	S	K	J	A	I	R	U	S	D	A	U	G	H	T	E	R
H	A	P	R	B	A	A	G	R	L	O	V	E	L	W	F	P	E	L	K	J
E	Z	B	F	G	Y	P	M	T	K	G	Y	T	W	H	O	L	E	L	A	E
A	A	M	S	E	Z	A	N	I	E	F	E	H	X	J	V	M	I	E	W	S
L	R	P	E	T	E	R	S	M	O	T	H	E	R	I	N	L	A	W	A	U
T	U	I	S	K	L	A	W	A	L	K	S	W	D	Q	S	T	A	N	D	S
H	S	Q	S	P	C	L	S	E	E	S	W	I	A	S	E	T	I	V	N	I
Y	I	T	U	E	S	Y	O	U	I	N	X	D	I	V	E	N	D	R	Q	
Z	U	S	V	E	E	O	R	G												
E	L	H	E	A	R	W	E	R												
D	C	I	F	R	A	S	T	O												
M	T	M	S	S	R	S	T	F												
A	A	S	L	T	E	O	E	J												
N	T	O	U	C	H	N	B	Z												

#### Word(s) List

- A blind man (John 9:1-7)
- A stooped woman (Luke 13:10-13)
- A deaf man (Mark 7:31-37)
- Ten Lepers (Luke 17:11-19)
- A paralyzed man (Mark 2:3-12)
- The widow's son (Luke 7:11-17)
- Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52)
- Jairus' daughter (Luke 8:40-56)
- Lazarus (John 11:1-44)
- Peter's mother-in-law (Mark 1:29-31)

# Order of worship

## Gathering

After the Gathering song and when the children have assembled in the worship area, tell them that today's readings talk about people who are sick or sad, so today we are going to begin by making a "Sad Bag."

Then take the brown bag and the marker from the table and ask the children to name different things that make people sad; as each item is named, write or draw it on the outside of the bag.

When the bag is full of words and symbols, stand it on the table and say, "Let's pretend that all the sorrows of the world are inside this bag. What is the best thing that we can do with our sorrows? Take them to Jesus!"

## Opening Prayer

(Use appropriate hand motions to accompany each phrase of this litany.)

**Leader:** For our prayer today, please repeat after me the words I say and the prayer motions I use.

**Leader:** Christ, you are before me. Christ, you are behind me.

**Children:** Christ, you are before me. Christ, you are behind me.

**Leader:** Christ, you are beneath me. Christ, you are above me.

**Children:** Christ, you are beneath me. Christ, you are above me.

**Leader:** Christ, you are on my left. Christ, you are on my right.

**Children:** Christ, you are on my left. Christ, you are on my right.

**Leader:** Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, we know you are always with us to help us whenever we need it. Thank you for being our loving God forever and ever.

**Children:** Amen.

Light the candle and begin the First Reading.

## First Reading: Job 7:1-4, 6-7

**Leader:** Sometimes troubled people don't know where to turn for help, but that isn't true for a man named Job in today's First Reading. After losing everything and everyone that was important to him, he takes all of his hurt and angry feelings to God.

At the end of the reading:

**Leader:** The word of the Lord

**Children:** Thanks be to God.

## Psalm: Psalm 147:1, 4, 5, 7

The Psalm may be either sung or spoken. Before beginning the Psalm, sing or announce the response. (If using a sung response, see Music.)

**Leader:** Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted.

**Children:** Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted.

## Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-18

**Leader:** We know that Job's story ends with God helping him. In today's Second Reading, St. Paul talks about the work God gave him to do, which is to share the good news that Christ saves us all from sorrow and sin.

At the end of the reading:

**Leader:** The word of the Lord

**Children:** Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Acclamation

Invite the children to stand. Sing the suggested Acclamation or another familiar one. If you choose not to sing the Acclamation, proceed to the Proclamation of the Gospel.

## Proclaim the Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

**Leader:** In today's Gospel, we hear how Jesus helped all the sick people he met in a town where he was staying.



**Leader:** The Lord be with you.

**Children:** And with your spirit.

**Leader:** A reading from the Gospel of Mark.

**Children:** † Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end of the reading:

**Leader:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**Children:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## Homily

Help the children understand the following points:

- Some of the sick people in today's Gospel were old; some were young.
- Some had been sick a long time, maybe 30-40 years, and some, perhaps only a few hours.
- God always helps us with our troubles: sometimes sooner, sometimes later, but always at the time that God knows is best.
- Sometimes God helps us without our even knowing it or feeling it. (To illustrate this final point, read and discuss the poem, "Footprints in the Sand.")

## Profession of Faith

**Leader:** Please stand for our Profession of Faith and respond to each prayer question with, "Yes, I do."

**Children:** Yes, I do.

**Leader:** Do you believe in God, the Father, who always hears our cries for help?

**Children:** Yes, I do.

**Leader:** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, who heals us of sickness and sin?

**Children:** Yes, I do.

**Leader:** Do you believe in God, the Holy Spirit, who gives us courage when we are in trouble?

**Children:** Yes, I do.

**Leader:** Do you believe in the holy, Catholic Church, the gathering place of all who believe in Jesus?

**Children:** Yes, I do.

## Prayer of the Faithful

**Leader:** At the beginning of today's liturgy, we made a "Sad Bag." Now let's use some of the thoughts we shared at that time to pray for all the suffering people of the world. Our response to each prayer will be, "Lord, hear our prayer."

**Children:** Lord, hear our prayer.

(Take the bag from the table and use the words and symbols on it to make up petitions recalling your earlier discussion of things that make people sad. End each petition with the phrase, "Let us pray to the Lord." For example, "For all people who have lost family members in accidents, let us pray to the Lord." If time permits, also invite the children to add their own petitions.)

**Leader:** Loving God, you sent us Jesus to heal us in mind, body, and spirit. We know he is the doctor who never leaves our side and the friend who stays with us through thick and thin. Like Job, who never lost faith in God, may we never lose faith in your Son. This we ask through the same Christ our Lord.

**Children:** Amen.

## Return to Assembly

The Liturgy of the Word ends with the Prayer of the Faithful. Prepare the children to return to the assembly in a respectful manner. Remind them to take a leaflet home and share it with their families.

**69B FIFTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

**FIRST READING**

Job 7:1-4, 6-7 I am filled with sorrow all day long.

**A reading from the book of Job**

**Job responded to his friend and said:**

**Life on earth is slavery!**

**We spend our days like laborers.**

**I am only a slave in search of shade,  
a laborer waiting for his wages.**

**Each month of my life is meaningless,  
and all of my nights are miserable.**

**While lying in bed I ask,**

**"How long before time to get up?"**

**The night drags slowly on,**

**as I toss and turn until the sun rises.**

**My days fly by more swiftly than the needle of a weaver,  
and they end without hope.**

**Remember that my life is merely a breath,  
and I will never be happy again.**

**The word of the Lord.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Psalm 147:1, 4, 5 and 7

**R/. (see 3a) Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted.**

**Shout praises to the LORD!**

**Our God is kind,**

**and it is right and good**

**to sing praises to him.**

**R/. Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted.**

He decided how many stars  
there would be in the sky  
and gave each one a name.

**R.** Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted.

Our LORD is great and powerful!  
He understands everything.  
Celebrate and sing!  
Play your harps  
for the LORD our God.

**R.** Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted.

## SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 9:16-18 Punishment will come to me if I do not preach  
the gospel.

**A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians**

**Brothers and sisters:**

I don't have any reason to brag about preaching the good news.  
Preaching is something God told me to do,  
and if I don't do it, I am doomed.  
If I preach because I want to, I will be paid.  
But even if I don't want to,  
it is still something that God has sent me to do.  
What pay am I given?  
It is the chance to preach the good news free of charge  
and not to use the privileges that are mine because I am a preacher.

**The word of the Lord.**

**ALLELUIA**

Matthew 8:17

**R.** Alleluia, alleluia.

**Christ bore our sickness,  
and endured our suffering.**

**R/. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**GOSPEL**

Mark 1:29-39 Jesus healed many who were suffering from diseases.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark

As soon as Jesus left the meeting place with James and John,  
they went home with Simon and Andrew.

When they got there,

Jesus was told that Simon's mother-in-law was sick in bed with fever.  
Jesus went to her.

He took hold of her hand and helped her up.

The fever left her, and she served them a meal.

That evening after sunset,

all who were sick or had demons in them were brought to Jesus.

In fact, the whole town gathered around the door of the house.

Jesus healed all kinds of terrible diseases  
and forced out a lot of demons.

But the demons knew who he was,  
and he did not let them speak.

Very early the next morning Jesus got up and went to a place  
where he could be alone and pray.

Simon and the others started looking for him.

And when they found him, they said,  
"Everyone is looking for you!"

Jesus replied, "We must go to the nearby towns,  
so that I can tell the good news to those people.

This is why I have come."

Then Jesus went to Jewish meeting places everywhere in Galilee,  
where he preached and forced out demons.

The gospel of the Lord.