

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and merciful God, you are the source of health and healing. You forgive our sins, you nourish us, and you bring us peace. In our sickness, our pain, our weariness, and our anxiety, surround us and renew us with your healing love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-3

¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to provide for those who mourn in Zion —
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

Second Reading: Acts 5:12-16

¹²Now many signs and wonders were done among the people through the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. ¹³None of the rest dared to join them, but the people held them in high esteem. ¹⁴Yet more than ever believers were added to the Lord, great numbers of both men and women, ¹⁵so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on cots and mats, in order that Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he came by. ¹⁶A great number of people would also gather from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all cured.

Gospel: Mark 2:1-12

¹When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. ²So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. ³Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. ⁴And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it,

they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. ⁵When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

⁶Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, ⁷Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone? ⁸At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? ⁹Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk'? ¹⁰But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" — he said to the paralytic — ¹¹I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home. ¹²And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Prayers of Intercession

Called together by the Holy Spirit, we pray for healing, comfort, and peace for all God's people.

A brief silence.

Holy God, have mercy on all your children in need of healing, strength, and love. Grant healing to all who are sick, injured, or disabled, that they may be made whole. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send your Holy Spirit into the church to carry on your Son's ministry of healing. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Come to us in our troubles, doubt, confusion, and fear. Restore us, and our loved ones, to wholeness and strength. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Grant to those who are lonely, anxious, depressed, or in any mental distress, a spiritual awareness of your presence and your love for them. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Grant wisdom, skill, and patience to all caregivers and professionals who take care of those who are suffering. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin. Heal our lives, our nation, our world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Grant to everyone on our prayer lists, all those in our hearts and minds, your loving care and protection. Help those who are sick in body, mind, or spirit to put their trust in you, and feel your strong arms around them. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Grant peace and grace to those who are dying. Comfort those who grieve. Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

Loving God, accept the prayers of your people. Look with compassion upon us, and all who turn to you for help. To you we give glory: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.