

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O come, let us worship God
and bow low before the God who made us,
for he is the Lord our God.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unfailing
care,
that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly
grace,
they may be defended always by your
protection.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Job 7:1-4,6-7

A reading from the book of Job.

Job began to speak:
Is not man's life on earth nothing more than
pressed service,
his time no better than hired drudgery?
Like the slave, sighing for the shade,
or the workman with no thought but his
wages,
months of delusion I have assigned to me,
nothing for my own but nights of grief.
Lying in bed I wonder, "When will it be day?"
Risen I think, "How slowly evening comes!"
Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.
Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have
passed,
and vanished, leaving no hope behind.
Remember that my life is but a breath,
and that my eyes will never again see joy.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 146

Response:

Praise the Lord who heals the broken-
hearted.

or
Alleluia!

1. O Praise the Lord for he is good;
sing to our God for he is loving:
to him our praise is due. (R.)

2. O The Lord builds up Jerusalem
and brings back Israel's exiles,
he heals the broken-hearted,
he binds up all their wounds.
He fixes the number of the stars:
he calls each one by its name. (R.)
3. Our Lord is great and almighty;
his wisdom can never be measured.
The Lord raises the lowly;
he humbles the wicked to the dust. (R.)

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 9:16-19,22-23

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the
Corinthians.

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since
it is a duty which has been laid on me; I
should be punished if I did not preach it! If
I had chosen this work myself, I might have
been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a
responsibility which has been put into my
hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is
this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the
Good News free, and not insist on the rights
which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of any man I
have made myself the slave of everyone so
as to win as many as I could. For the weak I
made myself weak. I made myself all things
to all men in order to save some at any cost;
and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel,
to have a share in its blessing.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

**I am the light of the world, says the Lord,
anyone who follows me
will have the light of life.**

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mk 1:29-39

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Mark.

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with
James and John straight to the house of
Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-
in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they
told him about her straightaway. He went to
her, took her by the hand and helped her up.
And the fever left her and she began to wait
on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to
him all who were sick and those who were
possessed by devils. The whole town came
crowding round the door and he cured many
who were suffering from diseases of one kind
or another; he also cast out many devils, but
he would not allow them to speak, because
they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got
up and left the house, and went off to a
lonely place and prayed there. Simon and
his companions set out in search of him, and
when they found him they said, "Everybody
is looking for you." He answered, "Let us
go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country
towns, so that I can preach there too, because
that is why I came." And he went all through
Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and
casting out devils.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O Lord our God,
who once established these created things
to sustain us in our frailty,
grant, we pray,
that they may become for us now
the Sacrament of eternal life.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**Let them thank the Lord for his mercy,
his wonders for the children of men,
for he satisfies the thirsty soul,
and the hungry he fills with good things.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, who have willed that we be partakers
in the one Bread and the one Chalice,
grant us, we pray, so to live
that, made one in Christ,
we may joyfully bear fruit
for the salvation of the world.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.


4 FEBRUARY 2018

Sunday Message

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: Green • Psalter week 1



FREE AND
WILLING TO
SERVE

Christ is healing Peter's mother-in-law, mosaic in Cora Church, Istanbul

Today's gospel reading falls in to three distinct sections: Jesus' healing of Peter's mother-in-law, a summary statement about healings and exorcisms, then a mention of Jesus going apart to pray and then on to a preaching tour of Galilee.

Peter, James and John are the three disciples present at important occasions, including the transfiguration and Gethsemane. Jesus cures Peter's (Simon's) mother-in-law by touching her and raising her up: her reaction demonstrates discipleship in action which is humble service. James and John will later ask for places of honour, only to be told that for a disciple of Jesus, this means becoming the servant of the others. This is the leadership which Jesus himself embodies and expects of his followers. Peter's mother-in-law also foreshadows the women disciples at the cross who followed Jesus and *ministered* to him.

In the second section, we find the first instance of a rather curious feature of Mark's gospel. After performing what we might consider a spectacular healing or exorcism, Jesus imposes silence on those who have witnessed it. It may be that Mark wants to avoid the possibility of identifying Jesus as the Son of God or as the Messiah in terms of his having the power to work miracles. The true declaration of Jesus as the Son of God will come after his death on the cross, when there is no further possibility of misunderstanding.

The theme of the disciples' misunderstanding Jesus is introduced in the third part of our gospel extract. Jesus goes off by himself to pray in the early morning, which was a common Jewish practice at the time. Simon and the others *track him down*, a term which has overtones of hostility. They have not simply come to see where he is. ■

DO

As you go about your ordinary tasks and duties, remember that the Lord is present to you. Involve the Lord in your thoughts and worries: this is what prayer is all about.



LEARN

Peter's wife is not mentioned in the gospel narrative: but Paul suggests that she travelled with him later in his missionary journeys (see 1Cor 9:5).

The verb used of Peter's mother-in-law *waiting* on Jesus and the others comes from the Greek term from which we derive the word *deacon*.

The Hebrew term *shalom* (peace) means *wholeness, total well-being*.

Jesus' instruction in Mark's gospel to the demons and others regarding silence is often called *the Messianic Secret*.

SAY

**Lord, teach me your ways:
show me your paths.**

REFLECT

The gospels present the picture of Jesus the healer, the one who cures all sorts of physical ailments. This he usually does by physically touching the person, laying hands on the sick and grasping them by the hand. Also, the desire of the afflicted person to touch Jesus, in at least one case succeeding in this without his prior knowledge or permission and being healed, all enhance the image of Jesus as someone empowered by the Spirit who brings wholeness into people's lives. This is the meaning of the Hebrew word *shalom*, usually understood as peace. Jesus' healing of a physical ailment is symbolic of the deeper healing of the whole person which he can give. When he says to the person cured *Go in peace*, he is

really saying, *You are made whole*.

We might also reflect that Jesus made time for prayer. The gospel accounts are written not so much for our information: they are also as a guide to being a disciple. When Mark presents Jesus in this way, he is saying that the disciple should act in a similar manner. The purpose of the Christian life, in the end, is union with God. To be a disciple of Jesus means to be in a relationship with the Lord. We may not be able to go off by ourselves, especially if we have family commitments, but we can all try to be more conscious of the Lord as we go about our daily business. Jesus tells us that we do not need to use long prayers: but we can cultivate a sense of the presence of God being in the ordinary affairs of life. ■