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

We praise you.

O God, almighty Father.

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

we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,

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

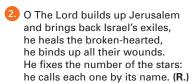
Response:

Praise the Lord who heals the brokenhearted.

or

Alleluia!

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



 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

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.

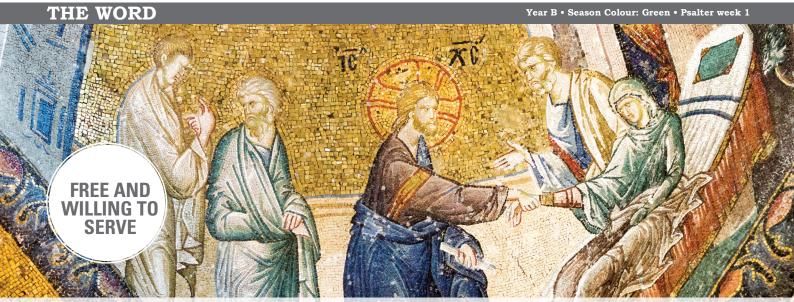
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.







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.

REFLECT

he 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.

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.