

PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL

I have heard your prayer and seen your tears. I will heal you

2 Kings 20: 5



PRESENCE OF GOD

Acknowledging Your holy presence among us we, we realize that You, O Lord, are close to the brokenhearted and You will save those of us who are crushed in spirit. (Psalm 34: 19

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are filled with Your glory.



Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God,

The Creator of the ends of the earth

He does not faint or grow weary;

His understanding is unsearchable.

He gives power to the faint

And strengthens the powerless.

Even youths will faint and be weary,

And the young will fall exhausted;

But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,

They shall mount up with wings like eagles,

They shall run and not be weary,

They shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40

PSALM 40:1-2

I waited patiently for the Lord;

He inclined to me and heard my cry.

He drew me up from the desolate pit,
out of the miry bog,

And set my feet upon a rock,

Making my steps secure.

HYMN: You are Near

**Yahweh, I know you are near
Standing always at my side.
You guard me from the foe,
and you lead me in ways everlasting.**

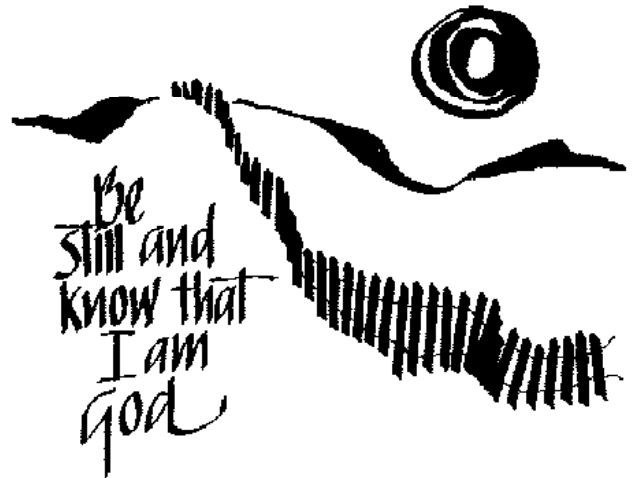
**Lord You have searched my heart
And You know when I sit and when I stand.
Your hand is upon me,
protecting me from death,
keeping me from harm.**

**Where can I run from Your love?
If I climb to the heavens You are there;
If I fly to the sunrise
Or sail beyond the sea,
still I'd find You there.**

**You know my heart and its ways,
You who formed me before I was born,
In the secret of darkness before I saw the sun,
In my mother's womb.**

**Marvelous to me are Your works;
How profound are Your thoughts my Lord.
Even if I could count them
They number as the stars,
You would still be there.**

By Dan Schutte, based on psalm 139



PRAYER BEFORE THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

O Spirit of the Living God fill us with Your gifts of light and peace, acceptance and praise as we recount some of the magnificent works of the Lord.

Matthew 4:23

Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.

Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them.

Matthew 7:7-8

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

Matthew 8:5

Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, Ma And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed.

Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour.

Matthew 9:35

And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

Luke 14:1

On a Sabbath He went to dine at the home of one of the leading Pharisees, and the people there were observing Him carefully. In front of him there was a man suffering from dropsy. He took him and healed him, and let him go.

Luke 18:35

Now as He approached Jericho a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging, and hearing a crowd going by, he inquired what was happening. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." He shouted, "Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me!" The people walking in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent, but he kept calling out all the more, "Son of David, have pity on me!" Then Jesus stopped and ordered that he be brought to Him; and when he came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" He replied, "Lord, please let me see." Jesus told him, "Have sight; your faith has saved you." He immediately received his sight and followed him, giving glory to God. When they saw this, all the people gave praise to God.

Luke 17:13

As He was entering a village, ten lepers met Him. They stood at a distance from Him and raised their voice, saying, "Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!" And when He saw them, He said, "Go show yourselves to the priests." As they were going they were cleansed. And one of them, realizing he had been healed, returned, glorifying God in a loud voice; and he fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked him.

Acts 10:38

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, Who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

REFLECTION By HELEN DOOHAN

The healing episodes in Scripture engage readers in a way that the teachings and sermons may not. These wonderful narratives spark our curiosity and heighten our interest. To imagine one paralytic taking up his pallet and walking (Mark 2:12) or another leaping and shouting words of praise because of an unexpected cure (Acts 3:8) is to experience the joy of the Gospel. Think also of the relief of the woman with the flow of blood (Luke 8:47) or the ecstatic response of Jairus at the news of his daughter's restoration to life (Luke 8:56).

Healing is part of a larger tradition within Scripture, and the relationship between healing and sickness is not confined to physical ills. In fact, the miracle tradition tells us more about the power of God at work in our lives than it does about health. These episodes point to growth in wholeness and holiness because of the healing touch of the Lord.

Questions still remain: How and why does Jesus heal individuals of their afflictions? Jesus often heals with a word or a touch. He heals at a distance in response to a request by the royal official; in the presence of opponents, as in the paralytic's cure; on the Sabbath; after expressing His grief and offering prayer as in the raising of Lazarus.

The reasons for restoration to health and wholeness vary. Jesus has compassion for the widow who has no future without her son and so restores him to life. He frequently responds to the requests of those who suffer and offers a cure. At times, the request is silent, as in the case of the woman with a hemorrhage. Friends bring those in need for healing to Jesus and he responds to the obvious as well as the deeper need by physically curing the paralytic and forgiving his sins. Many colorful and dramatic episodes demonstrate how and why Jesus heals those in need.

The Gospels also indicate another reason for healing. The miracle tradition is a vehicle for Jesus' teaching and an opportunity for the observers or onlookers to praise God for the wonderful signs. For individuals healed by the Lord, the miracle often leads to a response of discipleship. In these instances, the healings become a variation of the Gospel's call episodes (Mark 1:16-20) as those restored to wholeness follow Jesus in faith.

Jesus seems more concerned about the faith of individuals than their physical condition. In fact, wholeness has more to do with fidelity to God than it does with health. The real sickness that needs Jesus' healing touch is that of sin, isolation, marginalization, anxiety and lack of peace. The fullness of life that Jesus brings is the opposite: authenticity, community, integration, wholeness and peace. Therefore, the miracle tradition always asks us to ponder the deeper questions implied in the narrative and to identify real, rather than obvious, needs in ourselves and others. This approach was certainly the focus of Jesus' ministry and it may offer us insight about our own responses as people of faith.

HYMN: JESUS, POUR YOUR HEALING ON US NOW

A leper knelt before you.

Begging you, he asked to be made clean.

**Moved with pity, you stretched out your hand,
and through compassion brought about his dream.**

Chorus:

Lord, we come before you, longing to be whole.

You know every pain that we are feeling.

Suffering in our bodies, hunger in our souls –

There's so many ways we need your healing.

Jesus, give that healing to us now.

Jesus, pour your healing on us now.

You came upon a beggar,

One who had no vision from his birth.

Out of love you gave him back his sight

And, showing glory, reaffirmed his worth.

Chorus:

Lord, we come before you, knowing that we're blind.

There's so many things we need revealing.

Unacknowledged weakness, attitudes of mind –

There's so many ways we need your healing.

Jesus, give that healing to us now.

Jesus, pour your healing on us now.

A woman gave you water,

Drawn towards the way you talked of truth.

You knew every detail of her past,

Yet offered her the chance to start anew.

Chorus:

Lord, we come before you, conscious of our need.

You see every weakness we're concealing.

Pride and altercation, stubbornness and greed;

There's so many ways we need your healing.

Jesus, give that healing to us now.

Jesus, pour your healing on us now.

Jesus, give that healing to us now.

Jesus, pour your healing on us now.

Lyrics: Michael Lehr



**Merciful God,
hear our voices joined with people
all over the world
in languages foreign and familiar
each tradition calls You by different names.
Yet, this day,
we speak in a single voice,
united in prayer for the sick.**

**O Gentle Companion,
help all suffering people to recognize
Your sacred presence in the broken space of their lives.
Send Your healing spirit to all who suffer
the pain of physical, emotional, and spiritual illness.
May Your gift of laughter be light
for their long lonely nights.**

**Bless those whose lives are ending.
Free them from fear.
Surround them with the comfort and peace
of Your love.
Remind them of Your promises;
life beyond life,
love beyond our understanding.**

**In hope and trust we celebrate this prayer
as we praise and thank You
for the goodness and beauty
with which You have blessed our lives and our world.
Amen.**

Elinor Quill, NACC Cert.

A PRAYER FOR SOMEONE WHO IS ILL

**Through your faith in the Lord Jesus,
with the prayers of the Christian community gathered together,
and the healing touch of Jesus, may you be strengthened in health of mind,
body and soul so that you may continue to proclaim the goodness of God.
Amen.**

ANIMA CHRISTI

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.

Body of Christ, heal me.

Blood of Christ, fill me.

Water from the side of Christ, wash me.

Passion of Christ, strengthen me.

Good Jesus, hear me.

In Your wounds shelter me.

From turning away keep me.

From the evil one protect me.

At the hour of my death call me.

**Into Your presence lead me,
to praise You with all Your saints**

for ever and ever.

Amen.



Saint John Baptist de La Salle

**and all you holy Lasallian men and women who have gone before us,
be with us as we pray for our brothers and sisters who are ill.**

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!



**Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed;
save me, and I shall be saved.**