

Season of the Great Lent

Sunday of Healing of the Paralytic

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Opening prayer

Loving and merciful God, we are aware of our sins and weaknesses. But as painfully aware of our faults as we are, let us also remember your tender love, your gentle and limitless forgiveness. We come before you filled with pain and guilt but look into your eyes and see the forgiving love us so long for in our lives. Help us to forgive the same way. Teach us to love as you love. Amen.

Psalm 143: 3-6

The enemy pursues me, he crushes me to the ground; he makes me dwell in the darkness like those long dead. So my spirit grows faint within me; my heart within me is dismayed. ⁵remember the days of long ago; I meditate on all your works and consider what your hands have done. I spread out my hands to you; I thirst for you like a parched land.

Prayer

Holy and Immortal Lord sanctify our minds and purify our consciences, that we may praise you with purity and read your Holy Scriptures. To you be glory, forever. Amen

Letter 1 Timothy 5: 23-24, and Timothy 6: 1-5

²⁴The sins of some people are conspicuous, going before them to judgment, but the sins of others appear later. ²⁵So also good works are conspicuous, and even those that are not cannot remain hidden.

Gospel Mark 2: 1-12

¹And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. ²And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. ³And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. ⁴And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. ⁵And when 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, ⁷"Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" ⁸And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question these

things in your hearts? ⁹Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk’? ¹⁰But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic— ¹¹“I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.” ¹²And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

Concluding prayer

God who created me, You offer us new life and new chances during this Lenten Season. Help us to grow in an awareness of the gifts you place in our lives and in a greater appreciation for Your care. Give us the courage to ask for help, and to help others.