



## MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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February 7, 2021

Setting 3

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

**PRELUDE**

*Canzona*

by Giovanni Gabrieli

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING**

Have you not known?

**Our God is the everlasting God, Creator of the ends of the earth.**

Have you not heard?

**God does not faint or grow weary.**

Have you not known?

**God's understanding is unsearchable.**

Have you not heard?

**God gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless.**

Have you not known?

**Those who wait for God will renew their strength**

**they shall mount up with wings like eagles.**

We come to hear.

**We come to know. Thanks be to God.** ~Joanna Harader

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God, **you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.**

How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace. Amen.

**OPENING HYMN**

**Let us Ever Walk with Jesus**

**ELW #802**



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,  
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.  
3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,  
4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead



through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.  
Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss.  
he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath.  
that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, you are now our head,



On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, trav - 'lers here, our home a - bove,  
Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy:  
Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;  
we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be



full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Sav - ior's bid - ding.  
all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.  
and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heav - en.  
in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.



Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.  
Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.  
Je - sus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.  
Je - sus, let me faith - ful be; life e - ter - nal grant to me.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–1681; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, alt.  
Music: LASSET UNS MIT JESU ZIEHEN, Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent.  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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# CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## Prayer of the Day

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## First Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31

*The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.*

<sup>21</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? <sup>22</sup>It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; <sup>23</sup>who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

<sup>24</sup>Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

<sup>25</sup>To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. <sup>26</sup>Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

<sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? <sup>28</sup>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.

<sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. <sup>30</sup>Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; <sup>31</sup>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.

Holy Scripture, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God!**

## Psalm: 111: 1-11, 20

<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD! How good it is to sing praises to our God;

**for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.**

<sup>2</sup>The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel.

**<sup>3</sup>He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.**

<sup>4</sup>He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.

**<sup>5</sup>Great is our LORD, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.**

<sup>6</sup>The LORD lifts up the downtrodden; he casts the wicked to the ground.

**<sup>7</sup>Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre.**

<sup>8</sup>He covers the heavens with clouds, prepares rain for the earth, makes grass grow on the hills.

**<sup>9</sup>He gives to the animals their food, and to the young ravens when they cry.**

<sup>10</sup>His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner;

**<sup>11</sup>but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.**

<sup>20c</sup> **Praise the LORD!**

## Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

*God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.*

<sup>16</sup>If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! <sup>17</sup>For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. <sup>18</sup>What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

<sup>19</sup>For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. <sup>20</sup>To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. <sup>21</sup>To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. <sup>22</sup>To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. <sup>23</sup>I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

Holy Scripture, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God!**

## Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Gospel: Mark 1:29-39 Glory to you, O Lord.

*Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals people and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.*

<sup>29</sup>As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup>He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

<sup>32</sup>That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup>And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

<sup>35</sup>In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup>And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup>When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." <sup>38</sup>He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may

proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.”<sup>39</sup>And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

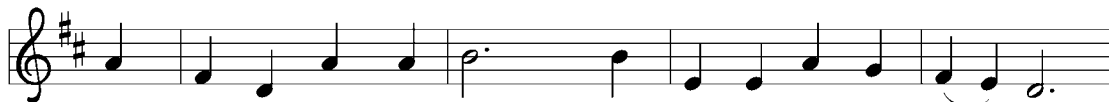
**Praise to you, O Christ!**

**SERMON**

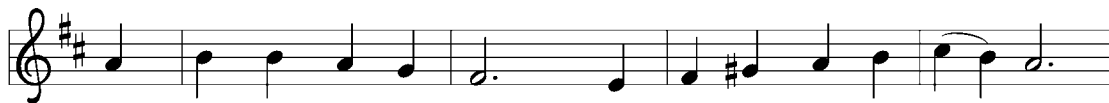
**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**O God, My Faithful God**

**ELW# 806**



1 O God, my faith - ful God, true foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,  
2 Give me the strength to do with read - y heart and will - ing  
3 Keep me from say - ing words that lat - er need re - call - ing;  
4 When dan - gers gath - er round, oh, keep me calm and fear - less;



with - out whom noth - ing is, all per - fect gifts be - stow - ing:  
what - ev - er you com - mand, my call - ing here ful - fill - ing—  
guard me, lest i - dle speech may from my lips be fall - ing;  
help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheer - less;



give me a health - y frame, and may I have with - in  
to do it when I ought, with all my might—and bless  
but when, with - in my place, I must and ought to speak,  
help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small,



a con - science free from blame, a soul un - stained by sin.  
what - ev - er I have wrought, for you must give suc - cess.  
then to my words give grace, lest I of - fend the weak.  
and, by your Spir - it's might, to live at peace with all.

## **Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.\* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need. *A brief silence.*

For the church: for ministries of healing and wholeness, for hospital, hospice, and military chaplains, for those serving in prison ministry, for all who proclaim freedom and release in the name of Christ, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For creation: for insects in the grass, clouds on the mountaintops, for cattle and the rainwater they drink, for the humility to take our place among all creatures of the earth, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For the nations: for all who lead in cities and towns, states and countries; for community organizers, school officials, and CEOs; for international health organizations, that in times of trial, fear, or hopelessness, they find freedom in service to those most in need, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For all wearied by life's burdens: for those who are poor, for those lacking supportive relationships, for those crushed by debt, for those struggling with chronic pain or other sickness, for those exhausted from overwork or stress, and for all who cry out to you especially we pray for Rolland, Donna, Walli, Betty, Gloria and Gene.

We pray for the friends of Messiah including: Donna, Denise, Bill, Dawn, Dorothy, Erin, Stephani, Karla, Orin, Danielle, Krista, Betty, Meghan. We pray for those serving in the military including: Alex, T.J., Ben, Vicki, Jeremy, Luke, Miranda and Daniel. We pray for seminarian Kaylie Ines, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For this congregation: for outreach and social ministries centered here especially the Mini Miracles infant care and Dala Pantry; for parish nurses and visitors; for ministries of companionship and support, for our council and leaders in the church, for the young people in this place who open us to new understandings, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed, who were called by name and now rest from their labors, that their lives serve as witnesses to the goodness of God, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive**



those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

## OFFERING

### SPECIAL MUSIC

Bill and Carol Gusenius will sing The Holy Wings by Carolina Sandell-Berg, arranged by Anders Orwall.

### Offering Prayer

O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. **Amen.**

## BLESSING

God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter **✝** keep you in peace. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

### Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

ELW # 858

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!  
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing  
3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;  
4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!

O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!  
and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.  
sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.  
All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!

Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,  
 Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been  
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do  
 Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.

join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
 sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?  
 if with his love he be - friend you.  
 Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
 Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*Improvisation on "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"*

by Paul Manz

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Messiah Lutheran Church  
 1/31/2021

	Actual Jan-21	Budget Jan-21
Revenue	\$8,807.75	\$12,096.63
Expenses	11,682.31	13,373.69
Surplus (Deficit)	-\$2,874.56	-\$1,277.06
Reserve Balance	\$77,792.07	

## **Members, Friends, and Family for Whom We Pray**

### **Members of Messiah:**

Rolland Christenson, Donna Forsberg, Walli Ellis, Betty Peterson, Gloria and Gene Holdsworth

### **Friends of Messiah**

Donna Stejksal	Daniels' friend	Karla Goewert	Friend of Kirsten Bruce
Denise	Pari Ford's mother	Orin Shogren	Har's brother
Bill Stephenson	Joy Janis's brother	Danielle	Robbie Peterson's
Dawn	Sharon Hoffman's Daughter	VanDeVyvere	granddaughter
Dorothy Carmichael	Friend of Messiah	Krista Bahler	Betty Peterson's Niece
Erin Erb	Friend of Sherry Peterson	Betty Finney	Sharon Hoffman's friend
Stephani White	Betty Holcombe's daughter	Meghan Presley	John & Margaret Presley's daughter

### **Serving the U.S.A.**

Alex Klapp	Betty Russin's grandson	Vicki Charboneau	Elaine Eller's granddaughter
Ben Youngquist	S Hoffman's nephew	Jeremy Guy	Hensley's son-in-law
T.J. Paulsen	Barb Malm's child		

### **Serving the U.S.A. Overseas**

Daniel & Miranda Norland	Randy/Gretchen's son & wife
Luke Hammontree	Daniel's grandson

### **Seminary**

Kaylie Ines

**Please pray for all affected by Covid-19:** Healthcare workers/administration/staff, residential staff and residents, those who seem unaffected and those who are currently aware they are infected and are fighting the virus. Also, we pray for all who are being negatively affected by the virus and it's social disruption

## **WIDER CHURCH NEWS: BY JEANNE AHLERS**

Lutheran World Relief is supporting families in Honduras coping with COVID-19 and hurricane disasters with support from the Center for Disaster Philanthropy, which has awarded a grant of \$250,000 to fund its efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19 in communities affected by hurricanes Eta and Iota, which caused catastrophic destruction after sweeping across the country last fall.

Families in the communities of San Pedro Sula and Choloma were displaced from their storm-damaged homes, and are living in crowded conditions in shelters, often churches, schools or other repurposed buildings, with limited access to adequate hygiene and sanitation facilities. The storms also caused economic disruption and forced families to engage in activities that put them at greater risk, such as migrating from farms whose crops were ruined to urban areas, seeking work in the informal labor market.

Even before the disaster, COVID-19 had a dire impact. Hunger was expected to increase by 82% over pre-pandemic levels.

Lutheran World Relief is collaborating with local partner *Comision de Accion Social Menonita* to provide food and household supplies for immediate well-being as well as returning to permanent homes. The project

combats COVID-19 by enhancing sanitation facilities, promoting education of the best hygiene practices and providing personal protection equipment to prevent the spread of the virus. Psychological assistance will be offered to those who need it.

Lutheran World Relief has been working in Honduras since the early 1990s and has maintained a permanent presence there since 2011.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Keep in your prayers **our Council** and the work they will be led to in this next year. Our council members are: Ingrid Pohl, Council President, Kirsten Bruce, Council Vice President, Muriel Gentine, Secretary, Warren Olson, Pari Ford, Mary Lindgren, Robbie Peterson, Becky Anderson, Linda Lewis, Sharon Bruce. We give thanks for their willingness to serve.

On February 14, next Sunday, we will have a drive by **Foretaste and Feast event** at 11:30 a.m. This will be Holy Communion and a meal, offered by Council. Menu-Sunday pot roast with potatoes, carrots, onions, Cinnamon Apples, Grandmas Homemade rolls, and Valentine Heart Cookies. Call Messiah 785-227-3977 to reserve your meal. Home delivery will also be available! Donations will go to the Dala Pantry.

For this year, 2021, Pastor has chosen a **passage of scripture for each month**. Please use this verse daily for the month. Simply read it, perhaps look at some of the questions with each passage to assist your reflection on its meaning in your life. May the Spirit lead you in the movement of the Word through the passage for each month.

**Daily:** What idea stands out to me in this passage?  
Where does this idea connect to what is happening in my life today?  
How might I incorporate this idea in my life today?  
With whom could I share these thoughts and/or this idea?

## **February: Romans 12: 9-17**

<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup>love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.<sup>12</sup> Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

<sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly;<sup>17</sup> do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup>Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.

How do I define love?  
With whom do I enjoy mutual affection? How is this different than genuine love?  
Hope, suffering, and prayer are combined here. Do I find them connected in my own life?  
Who persecutes me? What blessing would I offer them?  
When have I accompanied someone in their joy or weeping?  
What is wisdom?  
How do I discern what is noble? Do I live nobly?

FEBRUARY 7, 2021

FIFTH SUNDAY

AFTER EPIPHANY

*Jesus heals as he preaches and teaches.*



## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mark 1:29-39</b>	<b>Jesus heals many people</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Isaiah 40:21-31</b>	<b>The Lord gives strength</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>1 Corinthians 9:16-23</b>	<b>For the sake of the gospel</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Psalms 41</b>	<b>A prayer in time of sickness</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>James 5:13-18</b>	<b>Remember to pray</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Proverbs 3:1-8</b>	<b>Trust God</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 147:1-11, 20c</b>	<b>Praise the Lord</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mark 9:2-9</b>	<b>Transfiguration of Jesus</b>

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*[B]ut 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 40:31 (NRSV)*

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

**A Prayer for the Week:** Everlasting God, you strengthen the powerless; send us out with your message of love and healing through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Isaiah 40:29)

**Mealttime Prayer:** Dear God, you feed us with care and put rain upon the earth that your love we may share that gives all a new birth. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:** May the Lord renew your strength with wings like eagles, that you may run and not be weary, that you shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31)

## HYMN OF THE WEEK

*O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate*

## WEEKLY MILESTONES CARING CONVERSATIONS

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Talk or think about a time you have felt sick or weary?
- When you or someone you know has been ill, what has helped the recovery?

- Jesus brings good news that is filled with acts of love that heals lives. What is something in your life that you would like healed?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Mark 1:29-39. Does Jesus make a difference in this world or is he just a great guy with a sweet message and philosophy for a successful life? The world wants to know and the church needs to be able to answer in the affirmative: Yes, Jesus makes the difference for our world. This story from Mark 1 certainly believes it. The message that Jesus announces is more than words. It comes with actions that change lives. The hurts of the world find themselves at Jesus' feet again and again. Jesus doesn't have to go out and search for people in need. We all have a need for the kingdom that Jesus announces and lives. Demons are cast out, people are healed, Jesus prays, and his march forward into a world of need continues. Faith in Jesus is believing—at least wanting to believe—that Jesus makes the difference we need for hope and healing, peace and love. How does faith in Jesus make a difference in your world and the world of others?

*Pray:* **God of hope and healing, lead us into the world with good news that serves and loves others through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## SERVICE

Caring for the sick is a special way of showing Jesus' love. Think of someone you know who is in need of healing. Send that person a card to let them know you are thinking of them or call, if possible, and take time to brighten their day through conversation. Bring their needs to Jesus in prayer throughout the week.

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Christians are a praying people. There are many traditions we can introduce into our homes to remind us to pray and to help make prayer a routine part of our lives. Jesus gives us a model for a faithful prayer life when he seeks out time to be alone in prayer (Mark 1:35-37). Set aside time to be alone in prayer this week to give God thanks and pray for Jesus' healing for others. Close your prayer time with the Lord's Prayer.

In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: **[www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)**