

# THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Year B

Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24  
Psalm 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11, 12, 13  
2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15  
Mark 5:21-24, 35b-43

## Gathering

*(A candle, a crucifix and signs of healing [e.g. bandages, ointments] are placed on a table.)*

This week we see Jesus curing the sick foreshadowing the many deeds of healing we see today.

## Prayer

All: I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

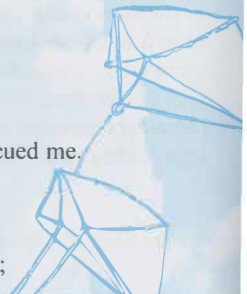
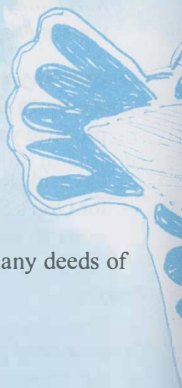
Leader: I will extol you, O LORD, for you drew me clear  
and did not let my enemies rejoice over me.  
O LORD, you brought me up from the netherworld;  
you preserved me from among those going down into the  
pit.

All: I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

Leader: Sing praise to the LORD, you his faithful ones,  
and give thanks to his holy name.  
For his anger lasts but a moment;  
a lifetime, his good will.  
At nightfall, weeping enters in,  
but with the dawn, rejoicing.

All: I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

Leader: Hear, O LORD, and have pity on me;  
O LORD, be my helper.  
You changed my mourning into dancing;





O LORD, my God, forever will I give you thanks.

All: I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

Psalm 30:2,4-6,11-13

## HEARING THE LORD'S GOSPEL

*(The scriptures are proclaimed aloud with a pause after each reading. Following a pause after the proclamation of the gospel, the leader invites members to name a word or phrase from the gospel that stays with them, but without any additional comment. Some may repeat what another has already said.)*

*When this naming is complete, the leader passes out copies of the scriptures of the week as needed. The leader then poses these questions: "What draws you to this gospel?" "Where do you resist this gospel?" The community pauses a time of silent reflection. After about a minute, the leader invites members to consider the Reflection and Questions. After additional time for silent reflection, the leader to re-arrange themselves in groups of three or small groups move off so as not to intrude on*

*for  
invites  
for the week.  
invites members  
for sharing. The  
one another.)*

## Reflection

Jesus may have accepted many an invitation to dine with leaders of the people, but again and again it is the ordinary people, often the lowest of the low, who are featured in one-on-one encounter with Jesus. The hemorrhaging woman in this week's gospel would have no standing in society; what's more, she's unclean. And the female child also in this gospel wouldn't fare better in her world. She had no right to inheritance and could not be counted on as a source of family support. Each is the object of Jesus' compassion.

Jesus moves about preaching the good news of God's reign at work – for all. His deeds, his healings are not just back up for his words; they are the realization of his message about God's love for his people. The two cures we hear of this week did not change the world perhaps, but they remain for us as witnesses to Jesus as God with and for us in the immediacy of life.

We don't get to witness the parting of the sea or to see Jesus walking on water; nor do we often experience or witness dramatic miracles of healing, but God is with us as well.

The great accomplishments of doctors, nurses who bring healing, engineers who tame flood waters, and workers who build planes and buildings and appliances of all kinds – these are not just human achievements. Each in its own way is a gift of God's good news being worked out for us. And God's good news is spread far and wide through the generosity of so many who give of themselves and their hard-earned dollars to help others.

Miracles still happen. Minds and hearts and lives are changed day by day including our own as we allow Jesus and his word to *touch* us. Again and again, Christ in his Spirit stands before us and says, "I say to you arise." "Do not be afraid; just have faith."

### Questions for Reflection and Conversation

- ◆ When have you seen miracles in your life?
- ◆ Name some simple experience of healing for which you are grateful.
- ◆ When have you experienced new life arising from something that was dead?
- ◆ How strong is your faith?

### HEARING THE GOSPEL'S LORD

*(After about fifteen minutes of sharing in threes/fours, the leader re-gathers the community. Once back together, members pause for a moment. The leader then poses these questions: "What do you hear Christ saying to us in hearing and sharing his word?" "What do you want to hold on to for yourself from this session?" "How are you/we being called to live in response to God's word?" After a pause, the leader invites the community to conversation. When this sharing is complete, the community moves to a time of prayer.)*

### Response in Action Suggestions

Inquire of your parish about the name of a parishioner in assisted living or full nursing care who may welcome a visit. Bring flowers or some



other simple gift and spend time with the person. Invite the person to tell you something of their life. Share something of yours as well.

- ◆ Set aside ten minutes each day this week for reflection and prayer. Be conscious of where healing is needed in your life. Pray for those who are sick, their caregivers and their loved ones.

*(After a brief pause, the gospel of the week is re-proclaimed by a member of the community. Following the proclamation, the leader poses these questions to the members: “What does Christ in his Spirit say to you now?” “What do you say to him in response?” The community pauses for a full five, perhaps even seven, minutes of prayerful attention to God. A brief instrumental may be played during part of this time. After this time of silence, the leader invites members without additional conversation simply to mention a word or two or a brief thought that captures what they hear Christ saying to them personally.*

*Following this sharing, a member prays the following on behalf of all.)*

Member: Good, gracious and merciful God, illness and sorrow often confound us. We do not always understand the things that occur around us. Suffering is a great mystery to us. Help us to accept what we don't understand. Give us the strength to live with the difficult, painful and sorrowful times in our lives. Grant us your peace. In Jesus name, we pray.

All: Amen.

*(Members join in singing, “Healing Waters,” The song may be found on the Internet. The session concludes with the exchange of a sign of peace.)*