

The Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

February 4, 2018

First Reading - Job 7:1-4, 6-7

Job spoke, saying:
Is not man's life on earth a drudgery?
Are not his days those of hirelings?
He is a slave who longs for the shade,
a hireling who waits for his wages.
So I have been assigned months of misery,
and troubled nights have been allotted to me.
If in bed I say, "When shall I arise?"
then the night drags on;
I am filled with restlessness until the dawn.
My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle;
they come to an end without hope.
Remember that my life is like the wind;
I shall not see happiness again.

Psalm 147

Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted.

Praise the LORD, for he is good;
sing praise to our God, for he is gracious;
it is fitting to praise him.

The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem;
the dispersed of Israel he gathers.

He heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.
He tells the number of the stars;
he calls each by name.

Great is our Lord and mighty in power;
to his wisdom there is no limit.
The LORD sustains the lowly;
the wicked he casts to the ground.

Words from Our Holy Father

"God is love". His is not a sentimental, emotional kind of love but the love of the Father who is the origin of all life, the love of the Son who dies on the Cross and is raised, the love of the Spirit who renews human beings and the world. Thinking that God is love does us so much good, because it teaches us to love, to give ourselves to others as Jesus gave himself to us and walks with us. Jesus walks beside us on the road through life.

-Pope Francis' Angelus Address, 5/26/13

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23

Brothers and sisters:
If I preach the gospel, this is no reason for me to boast,
for an obligation has been imposed on me,
and woe to me if I do not preach it!
If I do so willingly, I have a recompense,
but if unwillingly, then I have been entrusted with a
stewardship.
What then is my recompense?
That, when I preach,
I offer the gospel free of charge
so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

Although I am free in regard to all,
I have made myself a slave to all
so as to win over as many as possible.
To the weak I became weak, to win over the weak.
I have become all things to all, to save at least some.
All this I do for the sake of the gospel,
so that I too may have a share in it.

Gospel - Mark 1:29-39

On leaving the synagogue
Jesus entered the house of Simon and Andrew with
James and John.
Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever.
They immediately told him about her.
He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up.
Then the fever left her and she waited on them.

When it was evening, after sunset,
they brought to him all who were ill
or possessed by demons.
The whole town was gathered at the door.
He cured many who were sick with various diseases,
and he drove out many demons,
not permitting them to speak because they knew him.

Rising very early before dawn, he left
and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed.
Simon and those who were with him pursued him
and on finding him said, "Everyone is looking for you."
He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages
that I may preach there also.
For this purpose have I come."
So he went into their synagogues,
preaching and driving out demons
throughout the whole of Galilee.

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10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before, O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name*

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes

You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger
Your name is great, and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

Matt Redman

Psalm 147

Bless the Lord, my soul, who heals the brokenhearted.

Jesus, Heal Us

Jesus, heal us; Jesus. Jesus, hear us now.

All who fear the Lord, wait for God's mercy
All who love the Lord, come, he will fill you

All who fear the Lord, follow the way
All who love the Lord, hope in God's goodness

All who trust the Lord, God will uphold you
Let us cling to our God, let us fall in the arms of the Lord

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“Ground Rules” for Small Group Faith Sharing

Maintain confidentiality – “Whatever happens in small group stays in small group.”

Judgment-free zone – You don't have to agree with everyone, but you have to have respect for everyone.

No “shut downs” or “put downs” – See Christ in one another, BE Christ to one another.

Don't be a “discussion hog” – Be sure that everyone that wants to gets a chance to share.

Leave room for the Spirit – Silence is OK! Not everyone has to share.

Practice active listening – Avoid interrupting, fidgeting, criticizing, lecturing, or thinking of what you're going to say while another person is speaking.

Questions are a guide - You do not have to answer all of them or go in order.

Be open – God is doing amazing things!

Petitions

Our response: “Heal the brokenhearted.”

Closing Prayer:

Out of your power and compassion, O God, you sent your Son into our afflicted world to proclaim the day of salvation. Heal the brokenhearted, bind up our wounds. Bring us health of body and spirit and raise us to new life in your service. We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.



Questions for Reflection on the Readings

1. What word, phrase, or image touched you from the Gospel? Why?
2. Why do you think this Gospel was written? Was it to tell people about Jesus, the “miracle worker”? What does Jesus say is the “purpose for which he came”? What does this mean to you?
3. How can the Gospel show us what the reign of God will look like when it arrives?
4. In the Gospel, it says that Jesus left and went off to a deserted place to pray. How does this fit in with his tireless effort to carry out God's ministry? What does this teach us about our service to the Gospel?
5. Jesus heals the suffering of many people in the Gospel. What is your attitude toward those who are in pain and suffering? How does this attitude reflect your faith?
6. Read the First Reading. Do you ever feel like Job? What gives you hope to step out of the dark place?
7. Why do you think God allows suffering? Can you have faith in God, even if you don't understand why people suffer?
8. Have you known someone who, despite the pain and trauma he or she has endured, still manages to live a life of purpose and joy? What is this person like? What can you learn from him or her?
9. Could God have redeemed the world by saying a word, or breathing on it, or sending his son merely to be with us? Why do you think God chose a suffering Messiah to redeem humankind?
10. In the Second Reading, Paul talks about preaching the Gospel. What are some concrete ways that you could preach the Good News of God's coming kingdom—either in words or actions? What obstacles or barriers stand in your way?
11. Read the words of Pope Francis on the reverse of this page. How is Jesus in the Gospel teaching us about God's love?