

## PREPARING AT HOME

January 29-February 4, 2018

*Focus reading:* Mark 1:29–39 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=382006307>)

*Other lectionary readings:* Isaiah 40:21–31; Psalm 147:1–11, 20c; 1 Corinthians 9:16–23

*Theme:* Called to Healing

In the passage that precedes this week's reading, Mark introduces us to Jesus' public ministry. Jesus was teaching in the synagogue when he was interrupted by a man in need of healing. Those who were in the synagogue that day were amazed at the unique authority that Jesus demonstrated by these acts of teaching and healing. In this week's passage, Jesus continues to heal people but in different settings. First, we see him enter the home of Simon and Andrew, where he heals Simon's mother-in-law. In this act we see that Jesus' ministry reaches people – even women - where they live! Even more healings will follow that night, as "the whole city" (verse 33) has gathered at the door! Jesus' power and authority is not confined to the worshipping community or the walls of the synagogue but extends into the family home and out into the city streets! To follow Jesus is to walk daily with him in all of the places and in all of the relationships we experience. Jesus' ministry of healing and compassion takes place in the sacred space of worship, in our homes, and in the community. The healing he offers frees people from the various demons that would oppress them and leaves them, as in the example of Simon's mother-in-law, free to serve others. The conclusion of this story reminds us that Jesus, the Healer, balances his public ministry of service with private prayer and meditation.

### PLACES TO PRAY

Jesus went to a "deserted place" away from the needy crowds and noise to pray. Where do you pray? Set up a quiet corner that might serve as your "deserted place" to pray. You might put a comfy pillow and a candle in your prayer corner. Add a rock that you might hold or feel while praying. Jesus prayed to find out what God wanted him to do and where God wanted him to go next. What do you need to pray about?

### MINISTERING TO OTHERS

Simon's mother-in-law "ministered" to Jesus and his disciples. The word "ministered" or "served" (verse 31) comes from the same Greek word from which we get our word for Deacons, those who serve and minister in the church. What do you imagine she did? Who has ministered to or cared for you in special ways? How do you minister to others or show care for them?

### PRAYER

Loving God,  
we give thanks that you are with us  
at church, in our homes, and in the community.  
Make us mindful of those who need our care.  
Show us those who need your healing and  
help us to bring them your comfort and love.  
Amen.

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