

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

January 29-February 4, 2018

Worship as encounter with the living God cannot be limited to one hour per week. "Weekday Worship" invites you to extend your worship beyond the sanctuary, to hear the story of the Bible as your story, lived out each day of each week. Feedback is appreciated and should be directed to Rita Boyer.

BIBLE READING

This week's reading is: Mark 1:29–39 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=382006307>).

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

The theme is: 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.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

"Questions to Consider" enable you to connect your story to the biblical story. Rather than easy questions to be answered at first glance, these questions or reflections can be returned to and meditated upon throughout the week.

Jesus' ministry involved both giving and receiving, actively engaging with the crowds and quietly praying alone. How are you balancing giving and receiving?

How are you balancing busy activity and quiet prayer for discernment?

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of January 28:

How do you experience Jesus' call in your daily life?

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