

*I will restore you to health; of your wounds I will heal you. (Jeremiah 30:17)*

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

Psalms 146:6-10

James 5:7-10

Matt 11:2-11

In the first reading Isaiah speaks words of encouragement in order to strengthen those who are weak and feeble. God comes with vindication for the faithful, with divine recompense. It is the blind, the deaf, the lame, and the dumb who will be healed and there will be joy and gladness as sorrow and mourning are dissipated.

The Psalmist notes that the Lord God loves the just, protects strangers, and will thwart the wicked. He will gladden, dispel anxiety, and bring peace to the oppressed, the hungry, the prisoners, and will heal the blind. God is with us; God is in our midst.

In the second reading James encourages the faithful to be patient in waiting for the Second Coming of the Lord. They are to remain steady in their intentions and take as their example the prophets who spoke in God's name and patiently endured hardships. James reminds them not to grumble against each other as this can lead to their judgment.

In the Gospel John the Baptist sends a message from prison to Christ and asks him, "Are you the one who is to come?" Jesus response is to simply point out the many healings taking place and that the good news is being preached to the poor. John, for his part is both a prophet and the messenger pointing to Jesus; he is as great as any man, but the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater.

The **Father** heals our blurred vision which causes us to mistake evil for good;  
The **Son** heals our distracted minds which cause us to mistake selfishness for love;  
The **Holy Spirit** heals our unhealthy habits which cause us to lose our way.

### Healing

Healing is an important theme in today's readings and Jesus often healed with a gentle touch. When you pray the Our Father, hold out your hands and ask Jesus to bless them remembering that he touches you with Holy Communion.

When you reach toward your neighbor at the sign of peace do it in the name of Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, and show them the love of God, the Father of all.

It is prophesied by Isaiah that the One to come brings healing to even those who suffer the greatest of disabilities. This is the message given to John's disciples as Jesus preached the good news to the poor. The message is of joy and hope; it dispels darkness, sorrow, and mourning. It is especially relevant to the joyful message of the coming holy days. Be firm in your faith and do not grumble against even one other person. In today's culture, scandals and examples of human frailty too often dominate our attention.

<http://melkaplace.com>

