



## EPISCOPAL COMMISSION ON HEALTH CARE



### 2024 World Day of the Sick Prayer

*Recommended for February 11*

#### Opening Prayer

As we gather to remember and pray for all those who are sick in this world, we call to mind our mission as men and women who have committed our varied gifts and talents to helping our brothers and sisters who suffer all forms of illness. Let us not forget the many steps along the way to healing. Let us be gentle with ourselves when we too find that we have become ill. Amen.

#### Reading

**Reader: An excerpt from Pope Francis' 2024 World Day of the Sick message.**

*Brothers and sisters, the first form of care needed in any illness is compassionate and loving closeness. To care for the sick thus means above all to care for their relationships, all of them: with God, with others – family members, friends, healthcare workers –, with creation and with themselves. Can this be done? Yes, it can be done and all of us are called to ensure that it happens. Let us look to the icon of the Good Samaritan (cf. Lk 10:25-37), to his ability to slow down and draw near to another person, to the tender love with which he cares for the wounds of a suffering brother.*

#### Intercessory Prayer

**Leader:** God of good health, you have always cared for the sick in a special way, wanting your children to be healed in both body and soul. With Pope Francis, we pray in special gratitude for those health care workers who continue to be signs of the merciful hands of God, offering care and comfort even as they perhaps struggle themselves. As we remember now all the ways you have come to heal the sick, we pray together:

***Loving Lord, heal all who are sick in body and soul.***

Reader: For I will restore health to you, and your wounds I will heal, declares the Lord, because they have called you an outcast. (Jer. 30:17)

All: ***Loving Lord, heal all who are sick in body and soul.***

Reader: The Lord sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness you restore him to full health. (Psalm 41:3)

All: ***Loving Lord, heal all who are sick in body and soul.***

Reader: All who had people sick with various diseases brought them to [Jesus]. He laid his hands on each of them and cured them. (Lk 4:40)

All: ***Loving Lord, heal all who are sick in body and soul.***

Reader: Whatever town you enter and they welcome you, eat what is set before you, cure the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God is at hand for you.' (Lk 10:8-9)

All: ***Loving Lord, heal all who are sick in body and soul.***

#### Closing Prayer

**Leader:** Hear our prayer, O God, and heal the many illnesses that afflict us in body, mind and soul. Bring comfort to those who suffer. Bring consolation to those who despair. Bring strength to those of us who walk with the sick. Bring hope to all for whom the path to healing is long or may not end. Let us never forget your special care for the sick, that they may also know they are precious and loved. Amen.