

Friday of the First Week in Ordinary Time
Lectionary: 309

Heb 4:1-5, 11

Psalm 78:3 and 4bc, 6c-7, 8

Mark 2:1-12

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It seems like everyone is stuck at home these days – including Jesus. Jesus had been traveling and finally returned to Capernaum to be at home. (Mark 2:1)

For Jesus, he was likely at home to rest. But for us, our being at home may feel more like a rest/lessness. We stay at home not simply out of choice but out of the serious need for safety during a time of a global health crisis. We do so out of an abundance of love and care for one another and ourselves, but it's not easy. We are lonely. Anxious. Bewildered. Angry. Sad. Depressed. There is not so much *rest* as there is a *fatigue* that succumbs to a weary repose.

Jesus, too, did not exactly find *rest* at home. As soon as people heard he was at home, the place was filled up with people wanting his help. Mark says that there were so many people “that there was no longer room for them, not even around the door.” (Mark 2:2)

For us, we may not be surrounded by lots of people at home, but we *are* surrounded by many cares and concerns, worries and fears. Sometimes these can crowd up our room and block the doors and windows. It can feel like we have no space to breathe, no space to hope, no space to be.

And yet ... we are women and men of the Gospel.

Our lives – no matter how small and fragile and crowded in they may feel – our lives bear the imprint of a love as vast and abundant as the stars in the universe! We cannot help but *shine* even when it seems the sun is blocked by clouds and the storms threaten within and around us.

Look what happened to Jesus. His home was packed with people. The doors were blocked. There was no space. What did he think when he heard the wood timbers above him began creaking and shifting? Imagine his surprise when a crack of light appeared in the roof above him! And then the sky and the sun shining into the crowded room! What an experience that must have been for Jesus!

For us now, the question is what good news from God is being “lowered down” into our hearts? How is God shifting around the wood timbers of our life – the structure and framework of our life – to get in to us?

Finally, let us strive to enter into this new way of rest, as it says in Hebrews (4:11), a place where we welcome a God who bursts through walls and roofs to meet us where we are, bringing us spaciousness, light and a forever love.