World Day of the Sick, Feb. 11

Opening Prayer
God of Wonder as we seek your healing send us your vision for a health of body, mind and spirit. We labor for patients of all kinds as we carry out the healing ministry of Jesus. We listen for your guidance, as you are the first physician, to enkindle in our hearts a selfless generosity to as Pope Francis calls us to “draw near” to the sick and most vulnerable. We humbly pray.

Reading
“The “way” that Jesus cared for the sick is instructive for doctors and nurses of all ages, Pope Francis said. That manner involved “drawing near to the person”, despite societal norms. Jesus even asks the patient “What do you want me to do for you?”, entering into a dialogue and beginning “a process of relief, consolation, reconciliation, and healing.” “When care is given with genuine love for the other, it expands the horizons of the recipient, for human beings are a unity: a unity of spirit, soul and body.” Pope Francis address to Catholic Physician: Vatican News; June 22, 2019.

Intercessions
Please respond, Come, Holy Spirit

Jesus you healed Lazarus from the tomb and comforted his sisters with the words. “Lazarus, come out.” (NRSV, John 11:43). Be with those who suffer due to illness and loss of life.

Come, Holy Spirit

Jesus you healed the paralytic with the words. “I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home.” (NRSV, Mark 2:11). Be with those who are limited by chronic pain.

Come, Holy Spirit

Jesus you healed the man from Gerasene with behavioral health issues with the words. “What is your name?” (NRSV, Luke 8:30) May we always recall the person, life, and community behind the diagnosis.

Come, Holy Spirit

Jesus you healed a friend who betrayed you in the midst of fear with the words, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.” (NRSV, Luke 5:20) May others forgive us our faults.

Come, Holy Spirit

Each of us is in need of healing. Physical illnesses and ailments, old hurts, past judgements, and our own limited vision keep us from wholeness.
Help us to hear and heed the words you say to heal each of us.
Let us be lead as healing to others.

Silence

Closing Prayer (all)

God of compassion, in your way of seeing people for who they are - you heal. Give us this sense of caring for the whole person. Encourage us to take the long view as we labor in the “field hospitals” throughout the corners of the globe. May we as Ignatius Loyola says, “See you more clearly, follow you more nearly and love you more dearly in this healing ministry of Jesus.” Amen