Matthew 9: 1-8
After entering a boat, Jesus made the crossing, and came into his own town. And there people brought to him a paralytic lying on a stretcher. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Courage, child, your sins are forgiven." At that, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." Jesus knew what they were thinking, and said, "Why do you harbor evil thoughts? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he then said to the paralytic, "Rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home." He rose and went home. When the crowds saw this they were struck with awe and glorified God who had given such authority to men.

Our Scripture Reflection

Blessed Independence Day!
For the Christian, each day after Good Friday and Easter Sunday is a cause to celebrate and live our freedom in Christ. He humbly gave His life so that the power of sin and earth over us would be definitely broken. Today we must strive to live the freedom Christ has given us by putting His Gospel into practice.

**Food for your Journey**

I like to consider this Jesus' first miracle: the miracle of his humility. The first thing Jesus does for us is go down with us. His whole life will be like this. It is well known that Jesus ended his career on a cross between two thieves; it deserves to be as well known that he began his ministry in a river among penitent sinners.


**A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear God, I thank You for the freedom You have given me through the death and resurrection of Your Son Jesus. Thank You also for the gift of the most exceptional country on earth. Hold close to Your heart all who have died to make this great nation the gift that it is to us all. Amen