

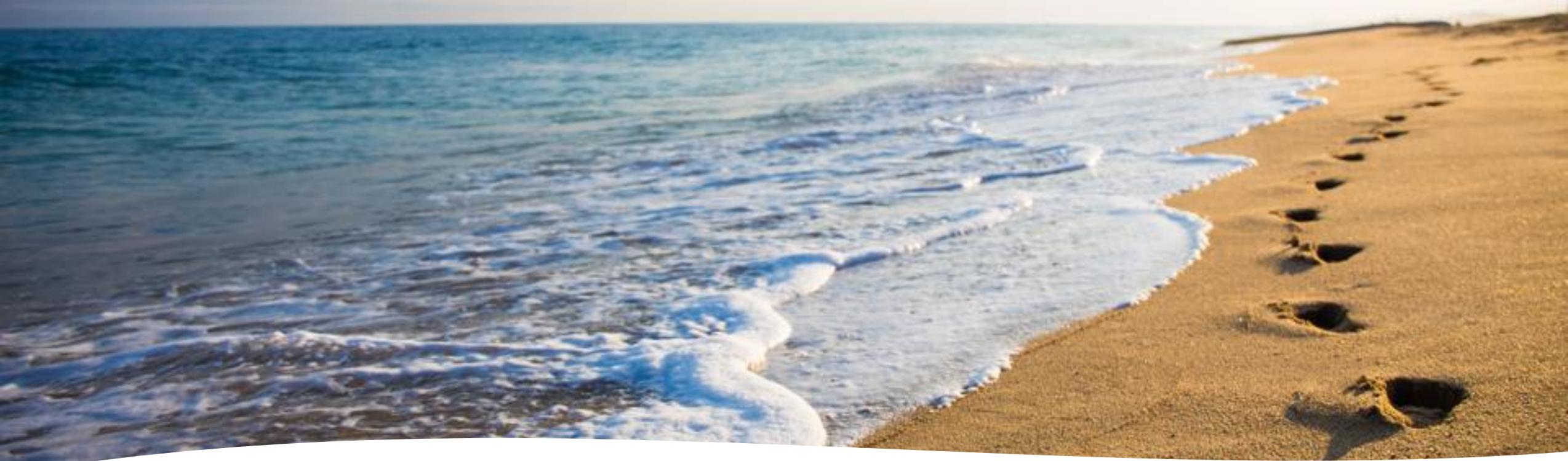


Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

“In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house and went off to a lonely place and prayed there.”

In the Gospel this week, Jesus is with James and John. He teaches in the synagogue. They visit Simon and Andrew. Simon’s mother is sick and Jesus heals her. News travels of Jesus greatness and people come to speak and ask to be healed. In the midst of his work, Jesus leaves the people and his friends and goes to pray on his own. His friends search for him asking him to continue seeing and speaking to the people but he says they need to move on to other places who do not know him so that he can continue to spread the love of God.

'...so that I can proclaim the message there too, because that is why I came.'

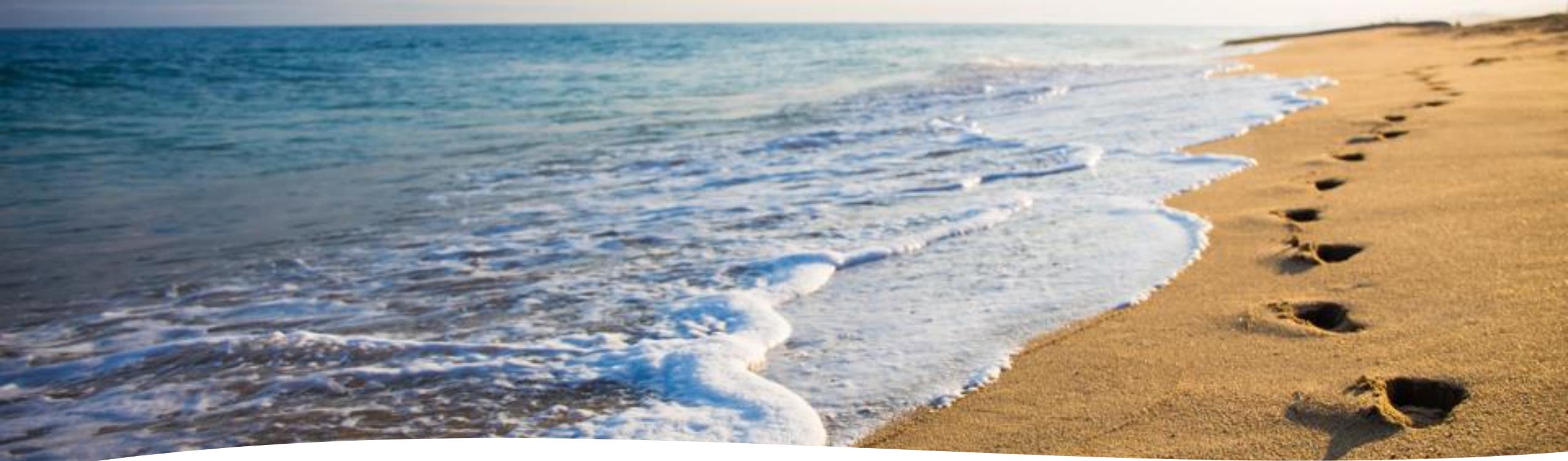


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A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 1 21:28

And at once on leaving the synagogue, he went with [James](#) and [John](#) straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed and feverish, and at once they told him about her. He went in to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to serve them. That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were sick with diseases of one kind or another; he also drove out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.



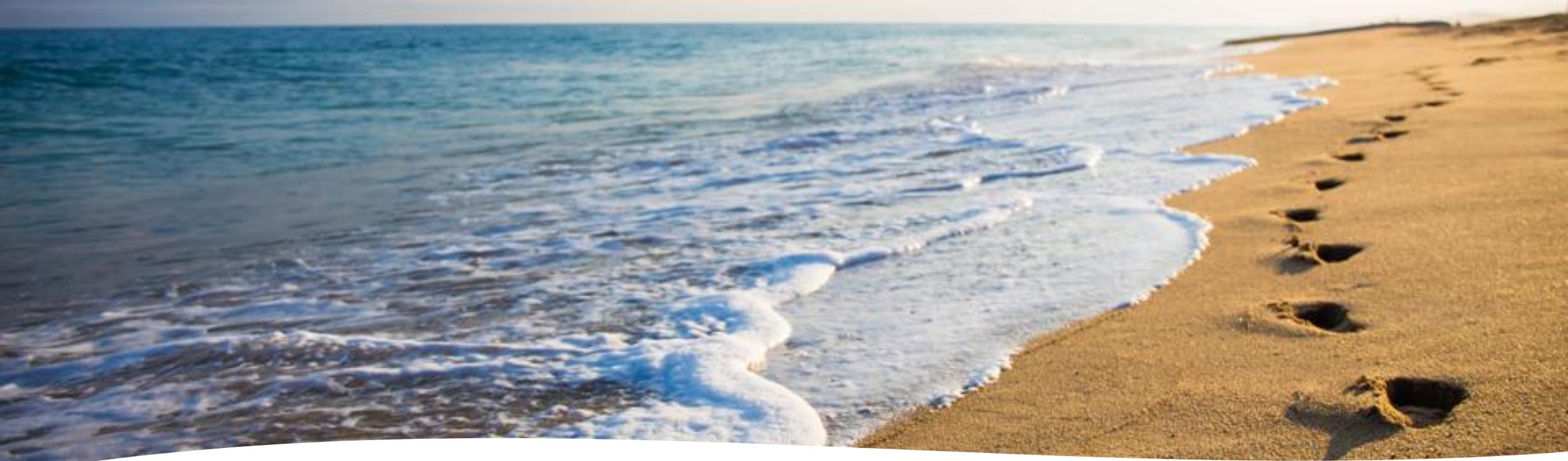
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In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can proclaim the message there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out devils.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



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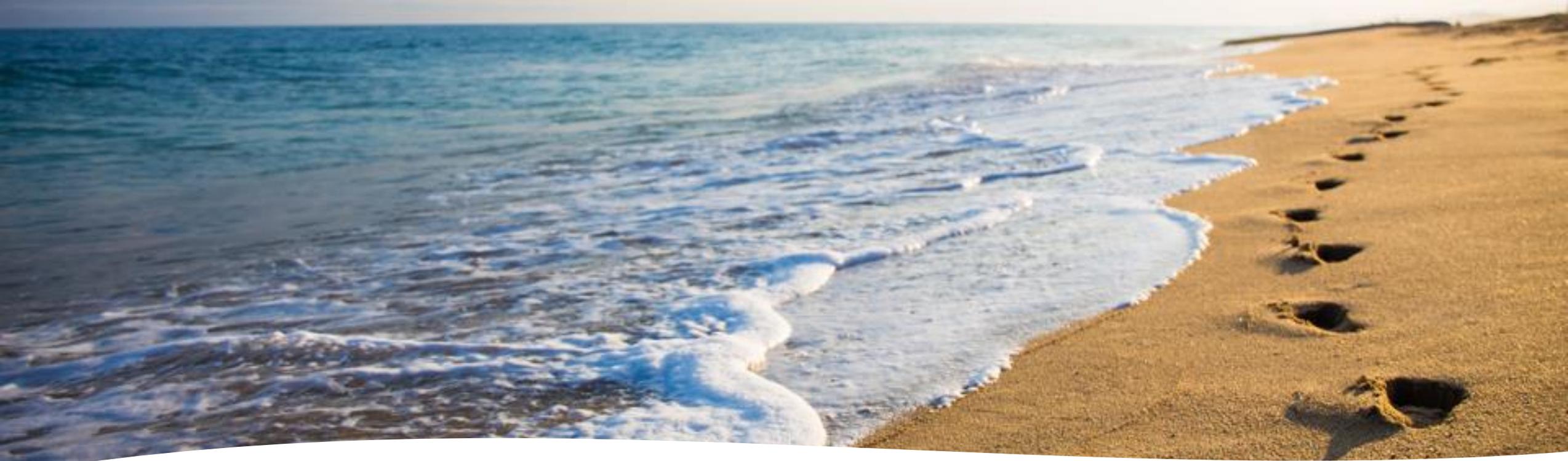
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Meditation

Jesus left his friends and distractions to spend time praying to his Father in Heaven asking Him to help him in his work of teaching and healing.

We too need to find a quiet time away from distractions to pray for faith and the strength to do the Lord’s work which is to show our love for Him and our neighbour.

- When do we find time, every day to spend a few moments with God to listen to Him and ask Him for His help in our lives?



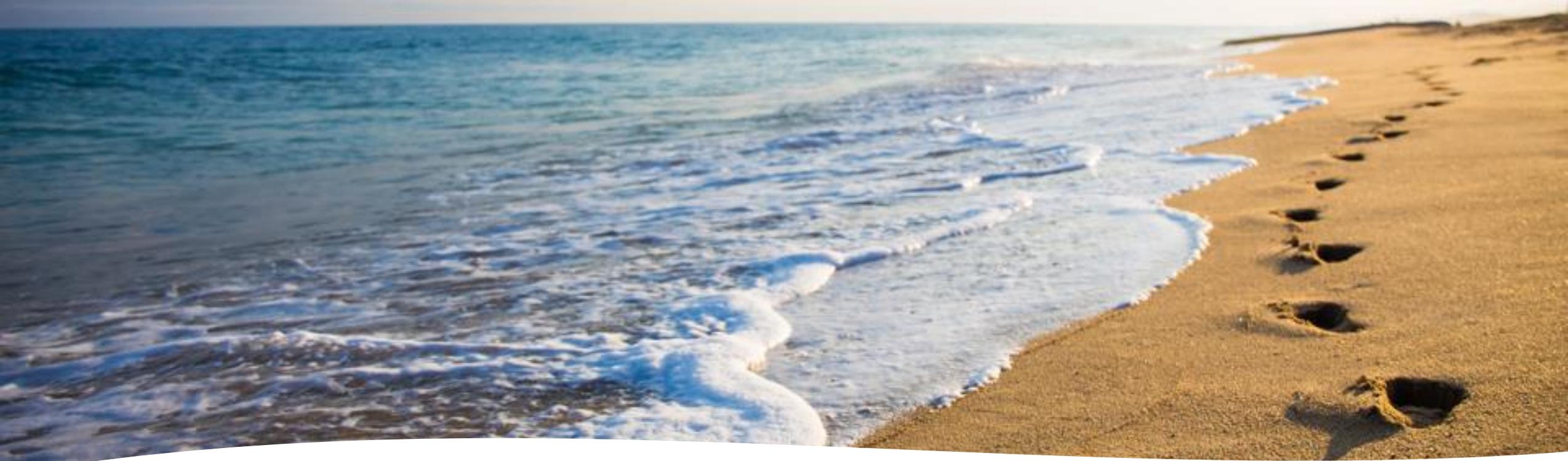
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Prayer:

One night I dreamed a dream.
As I was walking along the beach with my Lord.
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,
One belonging to me and one to my Lord.

After the last scene of my life flashed before me,
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.
I noticed that at many times along the path of my life,
especially at the very lowest and saddest times,
there was only one set of footprints.



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This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it.

"Lord, you said once I decided to follow you,
You'd walk with me all the way.

But I noticed that during the saddest and most troublesome times of my life,
there was only one set of footprints.

I don't understand why, when I needed You the most, You would leave me."

He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you

Never, ever, during your trials and testings.

When you saw only one set of footprints,

It was then that I carried you."