

## **A Service of Prayer and Healing**

### **April 26, 2020**

Why a service of Prayer and Healing?

- It reflects our belief that God's purposes for us is a life of wholeness, as expressed in the life and teaching of Jesus.
- The ministry of healing is a vital part of our Christian witness.
- It is the work of the whole Christian community in which we all have a part to play.
- It is for broken bodies, minds, and emotions as well as hurts and divisions within ourselves.
- It is not only for individual healing, but also of communities, nations, and the earth.
- Healing prayers are complementary to medical treatments which are also forms of God's loving and transforming purposes.
- We name specific people, places and situations not as problems to be solved but as a focus for God's acceptance and love. We are not seeking to change God but to change the world.
- We trust that God will answer our prayers even though we won't know how or when healing will happen.
- We trust in the promise of God's fulfilling and sustaining love that is for every one of us.

Let us come before our God of hope and love and healing...

### **OPENING RESPONSES**

We gather here in your presence, God,  
**In our need, and bringing with us the needs of the world.**

We come to you, for you come to us in Jesus,  
**and you know by experience what human life is like.**

We come with our faith and with our doubts;  
**we come with our hopes and with our fears.**

We come as we are, because you, loving God, invite us to come;  
**and you have promised never to turn us away.**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Jesus said: Ask and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. (Luke 11:9, 10)

**For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.**

Friends in Christ, God knows our needs before we ask, and in our asking prepares us to receive the gift of grace. Let us open our lives to God's healing presence, forsaking all that separates us from God and neighbor. Let us be mindful not only of personal evil but also of our communal sins of family, class, race, and nation.

Let us confess to God whatever has wounded us or brought injury to others, that we may receive mercy and become for each other ministers of God's grace.

*Silence for personal confession.*

Let us confess our sin together. Merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. May the God of mercy, who forgives you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Holy Lord,

**your followers gave to your children something more powerful and more valuable than riches. They gave healing and hope. Bring healing and hope into our world and show us evidence of your presence in our lives. Amen.**

## **READING Acts 3:1-10**

<sup>1</sup> One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, at three o'clock in the afternoon. <sup>2</sup> And a man lame from birth was being carried in. People would

lay him daily at the gate of the temple called the Beautiful Gate so that he could ask for alms from those entering the temple. <sup>3</sup> When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them for alms. <sup>4</sup> Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." <sup>5</sup> And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. <sup>6</sup> But Peter said, "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk." <sup>7</sup> And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. <sup>8</sup> Jumping up, he stood and began to walk, and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. <sup>9</sup> All the people saw him walking and praising God, <sup>10</sup> and they recognized him as the one who used to sit and ask for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

#### **GOSPEL Mark 6:53-56**

<sup>53</sup>When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. <sup>54</sup>When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, <sup>55</sup>and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. <sup>56</sup>And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

#### **SERMON**

##### **PRAYERS FOR HEALING**

O Christ our Lord, as in times past, not all the sick and suffering found their way to your side, but had to have their hands taken or their bodies carried, or their names mentioned. So we, confident of your goodness, bring others to you.

As in times past, you looked at the faith of friends and let peace and healing be known. Look on our faith, even our little faith.

We name before you those for whom pain is the greatest problem; who are remembered more for their distress than their potential; who at night cry, "I wish to God it were morning," and in the morning cry, "I wish to God it were night."

*Silently lift the names.*

We name before you those whose problem is psychological; those haunted by the nightmares of their past, or the vision of their future; those whose minds are shackled to neuroses, depression or fears, who do not know what is wrong or what to pray.

*Silently lift the names.*

We name before you those in whose experience light has turned to darkness, as the end of a life or the breaking of a relationship leaves them stunned in their souls and silent in their conversation, not knowing where to turn or to whom to turn or whether life has a purpose any more.

*Silently lift the names.*

We lift our very selves before you, bringing all that is broken, painful, and dark in our own lives.

*Silently lift yourself.*

Lord God, you alone are skilled to know the cure for every sickness and every soul. If, by our lives, your grace may be known then in us, through us, and if need be, despite us.

On all who tend the sick, counsel the distressed, sit with the dying, or advance medical research we ask your blessing, that in caring for your people they may meet and serve you.

For those who administer the agencies of health and welfare, we ask your guidance that in all they do human worth may be valued, and the service of human need be fully resourced.

This we ask in the name of him whose flesh and blood have made us all children of God. **Amen.**

## **SHARING OF GOD'S HEALING**

The ministry of Jesus invites us to new life in God and with each other. In the laying on of hands and anointing, we proclaim the good news that God desires us to be healthy and one in the body of Christ. You are invited to offer yourself, whatever your sickness of spirit, mind, or body, and receive a sign of healing and wholeness in the name of the triune God.

## **BLESSING OF OIL**

We give you thanks, O God, source of life and health, for in Jesus you became flesh and came to know the depth of human suffering. You sent the disciples to heal those

who were sick. Bless this oil, that all who are anointed with it may be healed, strengthened, and renewed by the power of your Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### **PRAYER FOR THE LAYING-ON OF HANDS**

(As you anoint yourself with oil, make the sign of the cross on your forehead)  
Spirit of the living God, present with us now, enter us, body, mind and spirit, and heal us of all that harms us, in Jesus' name. Amen.

### **PRAYER AFTER ANOINTING**

Gracious God, in baptism you anointed us with the oil of salvation, and joined us to the death and resurrection of your Son. Bless all who seek your healing presence in their lives. In their suffering draw them more deeply into the mystery of your love, that following Christ in the way of the cross they may know the power of his resurrection. **Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

### **BENEDICTION**

May God who is never absent in health or sickness, in joy or in tribulation, look mercifully upon you. May you find relief and healing, patience in the time of waiting, and faith made stronger by health restored.  
**Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

Healed and forgiven, go in peace.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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