

Discovering Christ's Healing Among Us

"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." (Psalm 147:3)

Opening Prayer

We gather together in the presence of God.

In our need and bringing with us the needs of the world.

We come to you, for your Healing Spirit comes to us in Jesus Christ,
and he knew by experience the pains and joys of human life.

We come to you with our faith and our questions.

We come with our hopes and with our tears.

We come as we are, both strong and frail, because you have invited us to be healed through your Son,
and you have promised never to turn away.

Prayer

Almighty God, your Son died on the hardwood of a cross that we all might come within reach of his saving embrace. May we discover today a new source of courage and healing in our lives. May we learn to transform our weakness by the strength of your powerful Spirit, that we may grow in faith and love.

Enable us now to be open and still, and deeply aware of your presence – always with us but with us in a special way right now – in a healing and transforming way. We pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

A Reading from the Letter of James 5:13-16

Are there any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up, and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed.

A Confession

God is love and we are his children. There is no room for fear in love.

We love because God loved us first.

Now, let us recall to mind our times when we have broken the loving relationship with God by what we have done and not done to one another.

Before God, with all the people of God gathered here, we confess to you our brokenness, the ways we wound our lives, the lives of others, and the life of the world.

May God forgive each one of us, Christ's healing love renew us, and God's Spirit through Christ enable us to grow in love. Amen.

Lord, let us not dwell in the past, nor worry about the future.

We cannot undo what has been done, nor can we foresee what will come.

Let us love and be loved, heal and be healed.

We offer the past up to you and rest in your forgiveness.

We offer the future to you and rest in your love.

We live in your light...open our eyes that we may see.

We live in your love...let your love flow through each one of us. Amen.

Prayer

By the gentle power of the Holy Spirit;

By the medicine of the sacraments;

By the anointing of the sick with oil;

By the touch of loving hands;

By the sanctifying of all of us here,

Lord Christ, bless us with your healing power and love.

Breathe your Spirit upon us and surround us with your presence.

Loving Jesus, grant us your compassion and bring us your peace. Amen.

Let us name (aloud or in silence) those we hold in prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, Good shepherd of the sheep, you gather the lambs in your arms and carry them in your bosom. We commend to your loving care all those who suffer. Relieve their pain, guard them from all danger, restore to them your gifts of gladness and strength, and raise them up to a life of service to you. Hear us, we pray, for your dear Name's sake. Amen. (BCP 459)

The Lord's Prayer

All: All glory and honor be to you, Lord, for your healing Spirit. May the light from the face of Christ so illumine our way that we may see the world differently – through his eyes. May God's peace so enfold us and fill us that we may carry it like a cloak – secure and safe in him. May the joy of knowing that we are children of the risen Lord fill us with that deep happiness which the world can neither give nor take away. Almighty God, into your hands we offer our loved ones wherever they may be. Into your hands we recommit our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.