

Concerning the Rites of Healing

Reconciliation of Penitents, Ministry to the Sick, Communion of the Sick

Healing was central to the ministry of Jesus, our incarnate Lord. Healing is central to the ministry of the Church, the Body of Christ. Spoken prayer, anointing with oil, and the laying on of hands are the principal outward means employed by the Church for its ministry to those whose health is in any way impaired. The rite of Reconciliation and the reception of Holy Communion are also gifts through which healing takes place.

All Christians are called to be agents of healing. Nevertheless, the regular forms of healing ministry set forth in this prayer book are expected to be coordinated and ordered under the authority of the Diocesan Bishop and the priest having spiritual charge. Some aspects of healing ministry, most notably absolution and formal blessings, are reserved to bishops and priests. The use of holy oils (healing and exorcism), like the ministries of which they are a sign, may be extended to lay ministers by the bishop and priest having pastoral jurisdiction. Similarly, lay persons may be trained and authorized to carry the consecrated elements of Christ's Body and Blood to the sick (or those otherwise confined or kept away from regular celebrations of the Holy Communion) under provisions set forward by the Ordinary.

Because physical, emotional, and spiritual healing are often interrelated, it is particularly appropriate to encourage confession, reconciliation, and forgiveness in the context of ministry to the sick. The content of a confession is not normally a matter of subsequent discussion. The secrecy of a confession is morally binding for the confessor and is not to be broken.

These rites are foundational to the many ways that the Church ministers to those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit.

Reconciliation of Penitents

The Penitent begins

Bless me, for I have sinned.

The Priest says

The Lord be in your heart and upon your lips that you may truly and humbly confess your sins: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Penitent

I confess to Almighty God, to his Church, and to you, that I have sinned by my own fault in thought, word, and deed, in things done and left undone; especially_____. For these and all other sins that I cannot now remember, I am truly sorry. I pray God to have mercy on me. I firmly intend amendment of life, and I humbly beg forgiveness of God and his Church, and ask you for counsel, direction, and absolution.

Here the Priest may offer counsel, direction, and comfort.

The Priest then declares

Our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given power to his Church to absolve all sinners who truly repent and believe in him, of his great mercy forgive you all your offenses; and by his authority committed to me, I absolve you from all your sins: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

or

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Lord has put away all your sins.

Penitent Thanks be to God.

The following prayer may also be said

Let us pray.

O most loving Father, by your mercy you put away the sins of those who truly repent, and remember their sins no more. Restore and renew in your servant whatever has been corrupted by the fraud and malice of the devil, or by *his* own selfish will and weakness. Preserve and protect *him* within the fellowship of the Church; hear *his* prayers and relieve *his* pain; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Priest concludes

Go (*or abide*) in peace, and pray for me, a sinner.

Ministry to the Sick

The Officiant begins

Savior of the world, by your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us;
Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.

The Priest (or other authorized person) dips a thumb in the holy oil, and makes the sign of the cross on the sick person's forehead, and, if appropriate, that part of the body which suffers from sickness or injury. Others may join in the laying on of hands. The Officiant says

N., I anoint you with oil and I/we lay *my/our* hands upon you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Lord Jesus Christ, heal this your servant, sustain *him* with your presence, drive away all sickness of body, mind and spirit, and give to *him* that victory of life and peace which will enable *him* to serve you both now and evermore. *Amen.*

A Priest may add

As you are outwardly anointed with this holy oil, so may our heavenly Father grant you the inward anointing of the Holy Spirit. Of his great mercy, may he forgive you your sins, release you from suffering, and restore you to wholeness and strength. May he deliver you from all evil, preserve you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Additional prayers or intercessions may be said. Additional prayers are on pages ###-###. See also Occasional Prayers #56-63 on pages ###-###

The Lord's Prayer is said.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

The Officiant then prays

The Almighty Lord, who is a strong tower to all who put their trust in him, to whom all things in heaven, on earth, and under the earth bow and obey: Be now and evermore your defense, and make you know and feel that the only Name under heaven given for health and salvation is the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

A priest may conclude the above prayer with a blessing.

Additional Directions Concerning Ministry to the Sick

If this rite is used with multiple persons, it is appropriate for the prayer that begins “As you are outwardly anointed...” to be used after all have received individual prayer.

Communion of the Sick

This rite is used when the consecrated elements are brought from an earlier celebration of Holy Communion.

The minister says

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:2

The minister continues

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Psalm may be prayed. Psalms 23, 62, 103 and 145 are particularly appropriate.

One of the following Gospel lessons is read, or the readings appropriate to the day.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

Jesus said, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him.

John 6:51, 55-56

Reflection on the lessons may follow. Additional prayers may be offered.

The minister may say the confession and the sick person joins in as able.

Most 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;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

A Priest, if present, says

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Deacon or lay person prays

Grant your faithful people, merciful Lord, pardon and peace; that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Minister The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And with your spirit.
Minister Let us pray.

Minister and People

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory
 forever and ever. Amen.

Then may be said

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
 have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
 have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
 grant us your peace.

The minister may say

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Sacrament is then distributed with the following words

The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you, preserve your body and soul to everlasting life.
The Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for you, preserve your body and soul to everlasting life.

After Communion, the minister says

Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us, in these holy mysteries,
with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us, through this Sacrament,
of your favor and goodness towards us:
that we are true members of the mystical body of your Son,
the blessed company of all faithful people;
and are also heirs, through hope,
of your everlasting kingdom.
And we humbly ask you, heavenly Father,
to assist us with your grace,
that we may continue in that holy fellowship,
and do all the good works
that you have prepared for us to walk in;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,

to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

A Priest gives this blessing

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

A Deacon or lay person says the following

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

2 Corinthians 13:14

Minister Let us bless the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Additional Prayers

For a Sick Person

O Father of mercies and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need: We humbly beseech you to behold, visit, and relieve your sick servant *N.* for whom our prayers are desired. Look upon *him* with the eyes of your mercy; comfort *him* with a sense of your goodness; preserve *him* from the temptations of the enemy; and give *him* patience under *his* affliction. In your good time, restore *him* to health, and enable *him* to lead the remainder of *his* life in your fear, and to your glory; and grant that finally *he* may dwell with you in life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Recovery from Sickness

O God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers: Mercifully accept our prayers, and grant to your servant *N.* the help of your power, that *his* sickness may be turned into health, and our sorrow into joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

or this

O God of heavenly powers, by the might of your command you drive away from our bodies all sickness and infirmity: Be present in your goodness with your servant *N.*, that *his* weakness may be banished and *his* strength restored; and that, *his* health being renewed, *he* may bless your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For a Sick Child

Heavenly Father, watch with us over your child *N.*, and grant that *he* may be restored to that perfect health which it is yours alone to give; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

or this

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 this child *N.* Relieve *his* pain, guard *him* from all danger, restore to *him* your gifts of gladness and strength, and raise *him* up to a life of service to you. Hear us, we pray, for your dear Name's sake. *Amen.*

Before an Operation

Almighty God our heavenly Father, graciously comfort your servant *N.* in *his* suffering, and bless the means used for *his* cure. Though at times *he* may be afraid, fill *his* heart with confidence that *he* may yet put *his* trust in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Strength and Confidence

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servant *N.*, and give your power of healing to those who minister to *his* needs, that *he* may be strengthened in *his* weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For the Sanctification of Illness

Sanctify, O Lord, the sickness of your servant *N.*, that the sense of *his* weakness may add strength to *his* faith and seriousness to *his* repentance; and grant that *he* may live with you in everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Health of Body and Soul

May God the Father bless you, God the Son heal you, God the Holy Spirit give you strength. May God the holy and undivided Trinity guard your body, save your soul, and bring you safely to his heavenly country; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Thanksgiving for a Beginning of Recovery

O Lord, your compassions never fail and your mercies are new every morning: We give you thanks for giving our *brother N.* both relief from pain and hope of health renewed. Continue in *him*, we pray, the good work you have begun; that *he*, daily increasing in bodily strength, and rejoicing in your goodness, may so order his life that *he* may always think and do those things that please you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For a Sick Person when there is Little Hope of Recovery

O Father of mercies and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need; We fly to you for aid on behalf of this your servant, here lying in great weakness of body. Look graciously upon *him*, O Lord; that as *he* outwardly fades away, you would strengthen *him* inwardly with your grace and Holy Spirit. Give *him* true repentance for all the errors of *his* life, and steadfast faith in your Son Jesus; that *his* sins may be done away by your mercy, and *his* pardon sealed in heaven; through your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. *Amen.*

Prayers for use by a Sick Person

For Trust in God

O God, the source of all health: So fill my heart with faith in your love, that with calm expectancy I may make room for your power to possess me, and gracefully accept your healing; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

In Pain

Lord Jesus Christ, by your patience in suffering you hallowed earthly pain and gave us the example of obedience to your Father's will: Be near me in my time of weakness and pain; sustain me by your grace, that my strength and courage may not fail; heal me according to your will; and help me always to believe that what happens to me here is of little account if you hold me in eternal life, my Lord and my God. *Amen.*

For Sleep

O heavenly Father, you give your children sleep for the refreshing of soul and body: Grant me this gift, I pray; keep me in that perfect peace which you have promised to those whose minds are fixed

on you; and give me such a sense of your presence, that in the hours of silence I may enjoy the blessed assurance of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

In the Morning

This is another day, O Lord. I know not what it will bring forth, but make me ready, Lord, for whatever it may be. If I am to stand up, help me to stand bravely. If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly. If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently. And if I am to do nothing, help me to do it gallantly. Make these words more than words, and give me the Spirit of Jesus. *Amen.*