

## **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 anyway 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 are reserved to those in Holy Orders, most notably absolution and formal blessings. 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 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.

The pastoral rites of Reconciliation of Penitents, Ministry to the Sick, and Communion of the Sick are the skeletal forms of the vastly richer pastoral ministries conducted by the Church – God's people – on behalf of all who suffer any infirmity of 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.*

*The Officiant may add the following prayer*

Gracious heavenly Father, as this your servant has been outwardly anointed with holy oil and received the laying on of hands, so grant *him* the inward anointing of your Holy Spirit. Of your great mercy, forgive *him his* sins, release *him* from suffering, and restore *him* to wholeness and strength. Deliver *him* from all evil, preserve *him* in all goodness, and bring *him* to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Additional prayers or intercessions may be said.*

*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 “Gracious heavenly Father” to be used with adaptations after all have received individual prayer.

# Communion of the Sick

*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.*

*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 ever-living 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;  
and 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 such good works as 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 forever. 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.