Liturgy of Healing and Holy Eucharist for the Prevention of Suicide

(Quiet music as the people gather. Lights dim if possible, may be brightened after reading from Isaiah. To begin the service – ring a chime or bell; light candles.)

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 9:2, 4
“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who lived in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. For the yoke that was weighing upon them and the burden upon their shoulders, thou hast broken in pieces O God.”

Opening Hymn -- (God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale)

Call to Worship
Leader: Jesus said, “Come unto me all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.” And so we invite each other to this time of peaceful worship.
All: We come, bringing our hurts, our worries and our fears.
Leader: We come seeking relief from pain, anxiety, loneliness and despair. With the psalmist of Scriptures we say,
All: “O Lord, you are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living, Give heed to my cry, for I am low.” We come to rest in God.

Collect for Purity
The Celebrant may say
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.

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

The Collect of the Day
The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.
God of Mercy, hear our prayer for ourselves, our friends and families who hold painful memories of loss, grief, and suicide. We ask for strength for today, courage for tomorrow and peace for the past. We ask these things in the name of the Christ who shares our life in joy and sorrow, despair and promises, death and new life. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 8:18-22
My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick.
Hark, the cry of my poor people
from far and wide in the land:
“Is the LORD not in Zion?
Is her King not in her?”
(“Why have they provoked me to anger with their images,
with their foreign idols?”)
“The harvest is past, the summer is ended,
and we are not saved.”
For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt,
I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me.
Is there no balm in Gilead?
Is there no physician there?
Why then has the health of my poor people
not been restored?

Psalm 34 7-10,15-18
The angel of the Lord encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers them.
O taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are those who take refuge in him.
O fear the Lord, you his holy ones,
for those who fear him have no want.
The young lions suffer want and hunger,
but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.
The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
and his ears are open to their cry.
The face of the Lord is against evildoers,
to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.
When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears,
and rescues them from all their troubles.
The Lord is near to the brokenhearted,
and saves the crushed in spirit.

New Testament Reading: (Romans 8: 18, 35, 37-39)
I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Sequence Hymn--
**Gospel** – John 10: 1-10

"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

**Homily—**

Presentation of information on Suicide,

**Prayer for Those Touched by Suicide**

Leader: Holy Father, we pray the words of Psalm 34:18: “The Lord is close to the broken hearted, and saves those crushed in spirit.”

All: We thank you for your steadfast and life-giving love. To this love and care we commend all those overcome by the chaos around them and the torment within them.

Leader: We pray that all those who sought relief by their own hand will know the comfort of your eternal presence, where you wipe away every tear and where there is no sorrow.

All: We ask your comfort to all those whose lives have been touched by the pain of suicide, that you would lighten their darkness and bring them out of their distress.

Leader: We ask that you touch all our hearts with your love and compassion, allowing it to overflow through us, touching the hearts of others.

All: Give us grace to care for one another: forgiving all, sharing all, and striving to always radiate your loving presence in our pain filled world.

Leader: Uphold us, enfold us, and sustain us with the joy and comfort of your never ending peace and never ceasing love.

All: We pray all of this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and our salvation. Amen.

**Anointing:**

Leader: O God, the giver of health and salvation, we give thanks to you for the gift of oil. As your holy apostles anointed many who were sick of body and spirit, so pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on this gift, that those who in faith and repentance receive this anointed may be made whole; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Note: Those who wish to be anointed are invited to come forward. The sign of the cross will then be made on your forehead with oil. The words spoken will be, “I anoint you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” Your response is “Amen.”)

**Hymn During the Anointing** (HY 676)
The Nicene Creed
We believe in one God,
   the Father, the Almighty,
   maker of heaven and earth,
   of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
   the only Son of God,
   eternally begotten of the Father,
   God from God, Light from Light,
   true God from true God,
   begotten, not made,
   of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
   he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
   he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
   and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
   he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
   in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
   and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
   and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
   who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
   With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
   He has spoken through the Prophets.
   We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
   We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
   We look for the resurrection of the dead,
   and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People
Leader: Let us pray to the Father of Mercies: Father, we pray for the unity and mission of the holy Church of God; that it may welcome and serve all those who live with sadness, depression or thoughts of suicide. Lord in your mercy,
All: Hear our prayer.
Leader: Guide us, the citizens and leaders of this state and this city ... that we may unite to provide for those who suffer in mind and spirit. Lord, in your mercy,
All: Hear our prayer.
Leader: Forgive us when we knowingly or unknowingly ridicule, look in disgust, neglect or discriminate against those who struggle. Lord, in your mercy,
All: Hear our prayer.
Leader: Comfort and relieve those who are deeply troubled. Bring them hope, peace and the consolation of a loving community to surround them. Lord, in your mercy,
All: Hear our prayer.
Leader: Protect and defend those living with emotional, physical or spiritual anguish from all exploitation, addictions and abuse. Lord, in your mercy,
All: Hear our prayer.
Leader: Walk with the homeless, runaways and missing persons, those who are destitute and all those who have no one to care for them. Forgive us for our indifference. Lord, in your mercy,
All: Hear our prayer.
Leader: We commend to your mercy and defense all who are contemplating suicide. Bring someone or something to intervene at this very moment.... (moment of silence)
Leader: Lord, in your mercy,
All: Hear our prayer.
Leader: For all families who have lost a loved one to suicide, bring them comfort in trusting that your grace accepts their loved one, despite the final desperate act that brought them into your loving arms. Lord, in your mercy,
All: Hear our prayer.
Leader: Empower us to speak up for those who have no voice. Save us from complacency and from accepting the shortcomings of the systems that have failed them. Lord, in your mercy,
All: Hear our prayer.
Leader: Guide those who do research for the prevention and treatment of mental illness that can lead to suicide; uphold them with your compassion. Lord, in your mercy,
All: Hear our prayer.
Leader: For all those who are survivors of suicide and for all those in recovery. Return them to full and rewarding lives. Lord, in your mercy,
All: Hear our prayer.
Leader: Heavenly Father, Giver of life and health, we trust that in your time and way, you will dispel all darkness with your light, all confusion with your order, all fear with your peace. Through Jesus Christ, who intercedes for us and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer for Healing
Leader: The God of strength moves within us;
All: The God of courage hears our distress.
Leader: The God of hope reveals wholeness to us;
All: The God of healing touches us when we are broken.
Leader: When the pain overwhelms us, when the burden is too heavy,
All: We turn to our God, who is sustaining and redeeming.
Leader: When there is loneliness, when there is isolation,
All: We turn to our God, who is loving and ever present.
Leader: For God created us, redeemed us and sustains us, and we are not alone.
All: Lead us in your ways, O God, and bring us your healing touch.
Leader: Almighty God, we pray that our brothers and sisters may be comforted in their suffering and made whole. When they feel afraid, give them courage; when they feel afflicted, afford
them patience; when they are lost, offer them hope; when they are alone, move us to their side. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

Confession of Sin  (from Enriching our Worship 1)

The Deacon or Celebrant says:  Let us confess our sins to God.

All: God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

The Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People    And also with you.

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence-
Offertory Hymn:

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer 2 (EOW-1)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People    And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People     We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People     It is right to give our thanks and praise.
Celebrant  We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant.
From before time you made ready the creation.
Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being:
sun, moon, and stars;
earth, winds, and waters;
and every living thing.
You made us in your image,
and taught us to walk in your ways.
But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away;
and yet, as a mother cares for her children,
you would not forget us.
Time and again you called us
to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels
in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity,
lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say):

**All:** Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

*The Celebrant continues*
Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.
To deliver us from the power of sin and death
and to reveal the riches of your grace,
you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant,
that she might conceive and bear a son,
Jesus the holy child of God.
Living among us, Jesus loved us.
He broke bread with outcasts and sinners,
healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.
He yearned to draw all the world to himself
yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.
Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross
the sacrifice of his life,
and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us,
Jesus was at table with his friends.
He took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke it, and gave it to them, and said:
“Take, eat:
This is my Body, which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”
As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine.  
Again, he gave thanks to you,  
gave it to them, and said:  
“Drink this, all of you:  
This is my Blood of the new Covenant,  
which is poured out for you and for all  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Whenever you drink it,  
do this for the remembrance of me.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation,  
and remembering Christ, crucified and risen,  
who was and is and is to come,  
we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine,  
and ourselves, a living sacrifice.  
Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts  
that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.  
Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth  
and make us your new creation,  
the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us,  
with [___________ and] all your saints,  
from every tribe and language and people and nation,  
to feast at the banquet prepared  
from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
to you be honor, glory, and praise,  
for ever and ever. AMEN.

Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

All: 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 for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread  
[Alleluia.] Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
Therefore let us keep the feast. [Alleluia.]

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.

Communion
Communion Hymn—

Closing Prayer: Prayer of St. Francis
Leader: Lord make us instruments of your peace ....
All: Where there is hatred, let us sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union;  
where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.  
Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Blessing
Priest: The Blessing, Mercy and Grace of Our God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you for ever more. Amen.

Closing Hymn (HY 335, I Am the Bread of Life)

Dismissal

References:
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Mental Health Ministries: http://mentalhealthministries.net/resources/worship_resources.html
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Enriching our Worship-1