

SSERVICE OF THE WORD FOR HEALING

October 18th has been designated by the ELCA (and probably also the Roman Catholics) as the “Day of St. Luke, evangelist.” If we were meeting in person, this would have been offered as the conclusion of the service. Surely we are all in need of healing at this time! Here follows the order of worship for the Service of the Word for Healing.

Note: Prayer for “healing” can encompass physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual needs. We pray for healing realizing that God will not necessarily “cure” or save from physical death. In this brief service we commit all our needs, for ourselves and others, to God, trusting that he will receive and answer our prayers.

We would open with a hymn asking for healing. There are several in the *ELW* used by St. Stephen, but they aren’t public domain and we have no permission to use them. You may begin with a favorite hymn if you wish.

Opening Dialog:

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, and his mercy endures forever.
They cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.
He sent forth his Word and healed them, and saved them from the grave.
The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and loving in all his works.
The Lord upholds all who fall; he lifts up those who are bowed down.
The Lord sustains them on their sickbed, and ministers to them in their illness.
The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, and his mercy endures forever.

The Apostle’s Creed follows this dialog, and then selected scripture readings and a sermon.

Prayers

Let us pray for all who suffer: Merciful Lord, you sent your Son to be our peace. Help all who suffer pain or grief to find in him strength and peace, so that their trust in your promises may be renewed.

Let us pray for recovery from sickness: O God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers: Mercifully hear our prayers and grant to your servants (speak names here) the help of your power, that their sickness may be turned into health and their sorrow into joy.

Let us pray for those in affliction: Almighty and everlasting God, comfort of the sad and strength to those who suffer: Let the prayers of your children who are in any trouble rise to you. To everyone in distress grant mercy, grant relief, grant refreshment.

Healing, p. 2

Let us pray for those who minister in healing: Almighty God, source of human knowledge and skill: Guide physicians and nurses and all those you have called to practice the arts of healing. Strengthen them by your life-giving Spirit, so that by their ministries, the health of all people may be promoted and your creation may be glorified.

Let us pray for the ministry of family and friends: Loving God, our creator and redeemer: Give strength and gentleness, patience and faithfulness to family members and friends. Let their hope be in you, and by their ministry of love, let your love be known.

Let us pray for those who desire our prayers: Blessed Lord, we ask your loving care and protection for those who are sick in body, mind, or spirit and who desire our prayers. Take from them all fears and help them put their trust in you, that they may feel your strong arms around them. Touch them with your renewing love, that they may know wholeness in you and glorify your name.

Let us pray for those making decisions: O Lord our God, send your Holy Spirit to guide us, that we may make our decisions with love, mercy, and reverence for your gift of life.

All these things we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Praise to you, almighty God and Father. You sent your Son to live among us and to bring us your salvation. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, incomparable Son of the Father. You humbled yourself to share in our humanity, and you came to heal all our illnesses. Praise to you, Holy Spirit, our defender and consoler. You heal our sickness with your mighty and life-giving power. Holy and blessed Trinity, sustain us and all your servants (name names here) with your presence; drive away their sickness of body and spirit; and give them that victory of life and peace which will enable them to serve you now and evermore. **Amen.**

Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, send your Holy Spirit upon your servant(s), _____; drive away all sickness of body and spirit; make whole that which is broken; deliver *him/her/them* from the power of evil; and preserve *him/her/them* in true faith, to share in the power of Christ's resurrection and to serve you with all the saints now and evermore. **Amen.**

The almighty Lord—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 whom they 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.**

Let us pray: Merciful Lord God, constant source of all healing, we give you thanks for all your gifts of strength and life, and above all we thank you for the gift of your Son, through whom we have health and salvation. As we wait for that day when there will be no more pain, help us by your Holy Spirit to be assured of your power in our lives and to trust in your eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The service closes with the Lord's Prayer.