

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.

THE RITES OF HEALING  
RECONCILIATION OF PENITENTS

*The Penitent begins*

**Bless me, for I have sinned.**

*The Priest says*

The Lord be in thy heart and upon thy lips, that thou mayest truly and humbly confess all thy sins: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. **Amen.**

*Penitent*

**I confess to Almighty God, to his Church, and to thee, 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 which I cannot now remember, I am truly sorry. I pray God to have mercy on me. I firmly purpose amendment of life, and I humbly beg forgiveness of God and his Church, and ask thee for counsel, direction, and absolution.**

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

*The Priest then declares*

Our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath left power to his Church to absolve all sinners who truly repent and believe in him, of his great mercy forgive thee thine offences: And by his authority committed to me, I absolve thee from all thy sins, In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. **Amen.**

*or*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon thee, pardon and deliver thee from all thy sins, confirm and strengthen thee in all goodness, and bring thee to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord hath put away all thy sins.

*Penitent* **Thanks be to God.**

*The following prayer may also be said*

Let us pray.

O most merciful God, who, according to the multitude of thy mercies, dost so put away the sins of those who truly repent, that thou rememberest them no more: Restore and renew in thy servant whatsoever hath been decayed by the fraud and malice of the devil, or by *his* own carnal will and frailness; preserve and continue this member in the unity of the Church; hear *his* prayers and assuage *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*

O Savior of the world, by thy Cross and precious blood thou hast redeemed us;  
Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

*The Priest (or other authorized person) anoints the sick person's forehead with the Oil of the Sick by making the sign of the Cross. If appropriate, other parts of the body which suffer from sickness or injury may also be anointed. Others may join in the laying on of hands. The Officiant says*

N., I anoint thee with oil and I (or we) lay my (or our) hands upon thee in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. **Amen.**

O Lord Jesus Christ, heal this thy servant, sustain *him* with thy 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 thee both now and evermore. **Amen.**

*A Priest may add the following prayer. If this rite is used with multiple persons, it is appropriate for this prayer to be used after all have received individual prayer.*

As with this holy oil thou art outwardly anointed, so may our heavenly Father grant that thou mayest be inwardly anointed with the Holy Spirit.

May he of his great mercy forgive thee thy sins, send thee release from suffering, and restore unto thee health and strength. May he deliver thee from all evil, preserve thee in all goodness, and bring thee to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Additional prayers or intercessions may be said. Additional prayers are on pages 231-235. See also Occasional Prayers #56-63 on pages 663-665.*

*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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

*The Officiant then prays*

The Almighty Lord, who is a most strong tower to all those that put their trust in him, to whom all things in heaven, in earth, and under the earth, do bow and obey, be now and evermore thy defense; and make thee know and feel, that there is none other Name under heaven given to man, in whom, and through whom, thou mayest receive health and salvation, but only the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*A Priest may conclude the above prayer with a blessing.*

## 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 be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from  
the Lord Jesus Christ.

PHILIPPIANS 1:2

*The Minister continues*

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires  
known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the  
thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy 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.*

God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that  
whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have  
everlasting life.

JOHN 3:16

Jesus said, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth 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 thee**

**in thought, word and deed,**

**by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved thee with our whole heart;**

**we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,**

**have mercy on us and forgive us;**

**that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways,**

**to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

*A Priest, if present, says*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto 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, we beseech thee, merciful Lord, to thy faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins,

and serve thee with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Minister* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And with thy 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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

*Then may be said*

○ Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world;  
**have mercy upon us.**

○ Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world;  
**have mercy upon us.**

○ Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world;  
**grant us thy peace.**

*The minister may say*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for thee, and feed on him in thy 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 thee,  
preserve thy body and soul to everlasting life.

The Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for thee,  
preserve thy body and soul to everlasting life.

*After Communion, the Minister says*

**Almighty and everliving God,**  
**we most heartily thank thee, for that thou dost vouchsafe**  
**to feed us, who have duly received these holy mysteries,**  
**with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood**  
**of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ;**  
**and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us;**  
**and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical**  
**body of thy Son,**  
**which is the blessed company of all faithful people;**  
**and are also heirs, through hope,**  
**of thy everlasting kingdom.**

**And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father,**  
**so to assist us with thy grace,**  
**that we may continue in that holy fellowship,**  
**and do all such good works as thou hast prepared**  
**for us to walk in;**  
**through Jesus Christ our Lord,**  
**to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost,**  
**be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

*A Priest gives this blessing*

The peace of God which passeth 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 Ghost, be amongst 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 Ghost, 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 thee to behold, visit, and relieve thy sick servant *N.* for whom our prayers are desired. Look upon *him* with the eyes of thy mercy; comfort *him* with a sense of thy goodness; preserve *him* from the temptations of the enemy; and give *him* patience under *his* affliction. In thy good time, restore *him* to health, and enable *him* to lead the residue of *his* life in thy fear, and to thy glory; and grant that finally *he* may dwell with thee in life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### FOR RECOVERY FROM SICKNESS

O God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of those who suffer; Mercifully accept our prayers, and grant to thy servant *N.* the help of thy 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 thy command thou dost drive away from our bodies all sickness and infirmity: Be

present in thy goodness with thy servant *N.*, that *his* weakness may be banished and *his* strength restored; and that, *his* health being renewed, *he* may bless thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### FOR A SICK CHILD

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

*or this*

Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of the sheep, who gatherest the lambs in thine arms and carriest them in thy bosom: We commend unto thy loving care this thy child *N.* Relieve *his* pain, guard *him* from all danger, restore unto *him* thy gifts of gladness and strength, and raise *him* up to a life of service unto thee. Hear us, we pray, for thy dear Name's sake. **Amen.**

#### BEFORE AN OPERATION

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, graciously comfort thy 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 thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### FOR STRENGTH AND CONFIDENCE

O Heavenly Father, who art the giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve thy sick servant *N.*, and give thy power of healing to those who minister to *his* needs, that *he* may be

strengthened in *his* weakness and have confidence in thy loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FOR THE SANCTIFICATION OF ILLNESS

Sanctify, we beseech thee, O Lord, the sickness of this thy servant *N.*; that the sense of *his* weakness may add strength to *his* faith, and seriousness to *his* repentance; and grant that *he* may dwell with thee in life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FOR HEALTH OF BODY AND SOUL

May God the Father bless thee, God the Son heal thee, God the Holy Ghost give thee strength. May God the holy and undivided Trinity guard thy body, save thy soul, and bring thee safely to his heavenly country; where he liveth and reigneth, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING FOR A BEGINNING OF RECOVERY

O Lord, whose compassions faileth not, and whose mercies are new every morning: We give thee thanks for granting our *brother N.* both relief from pain and hope of health renewed. Continue in *him*, we pray thee, the good work thou hast begun; that *he*, daily increasing in bodily strength, and rejoicing in thy goodness, may so order *his* life that *he* may always think and do those things that please thee; 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 unto thee for succor on behalf of this thy

servant, here lying in great weakness of body. Look graciously upon *him*, O Lord; and the more the outward man decayeth, strengthen *him*, we beseech thee, so much the more continually with thy grace and Holy Spirit in the inner man. Give *him* unfeigned repentance for all the errors of *his* life past, and steadfast faith in thy Son Jesus; that *his* sins may be done away by thy mercy, and *his* pardon sealed in heaven; through the same thy Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **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 thy love, that with calm expectancy I may make room for thy power to possess me, and gracefully accept thy healing; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### IN PAIN

Lord Jesus Christ, who by thy patience in suffering didst hallow earthly pain and didst give us thy example of obedience to thy Father's will: Be near to me in my time of weakness and pain; sustain me by thy grace, that my strength and courage may not fail; heal me according to thy will; and help me always to believe that whatsoever happeneth to me here is of little account if thou holdest me in eternal life, my Lord and my God. **Amen.**

### A PRAYER WHEN TAKING MEDICINE

Almighty God, in thy goodness thou didst create the earth and all its elements, and thou hast given us skill to make medicines that heal and relieve our pain. All healing cometh from thee, and in thee I put my trust. Grant that this medicine may, in

thy mercy, give comfort and bring healing to my body; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### FOR SLEEP

O heavenly Father, who givest thy children sleep for the refreshing of soul and body: Grant me this gift, I pray; keep me in that perfect peace which thou hast promised to those whose minds are fixed on thee; and give me such a sense of thy presence, that in the hours of silence I may enjoy the blessed assurance of thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### IN THE MORNING

This is another day, O Lord, and 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.**

#### SCRIPTURES FOR USE BY A SICK PERSON

*For perseverance in suffering:* ISAIAH 53, I PETER 2:21-25, I THESSALONIANS 5:16-24, 2 CORINTHIANS 12:7-10, ROMANS 8:18-39

*For hope for healing:* 2 KINGS 5:1-14, JAMES 5:13-20, LUKE 5:12-26, LUKE 13:10-17, ACTS 3:1-10

*For the hope of eternity:* LUKE 2:25-35, JOHN 14, I CORINTHIANS 15:42-58, 2 CORINTHIANS 4:7-18, I THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

*See also the Selections of Psalms on page 269.*