

A SERVICE OF HEALING

The healing service is not a magic show, but rather a corporate worship experience in which those who are ministering become conduits of God's love and grace. The healing is not a result of anything we do, but rather precedes from the presence of God among us. The service of healing is not intended to replace surgery, medicine, psychotherapy, or any other health care; but recognizing that God works through many of these channels, the service is intended to be part of a total health care regime. It should be noted that the service of healing is not intended to be a guarantee of complete physical restoration, although that may happen; the purpose is to acknowledge God's presence with us in our suffering and His ability to heal if it is His will. Since it is hoped that many people will come forward for the healing touch, it is suggested that church elders participate in accordance with James 5:14. It is also appropriate to include the Lord's Supper in a healing service. This particular service is designed so it may include either anointing with oil or the laying on of hands.

Prayer

Eternal and everlasting heavenly Father, we recognize You as the one who forgives all of our sins and heals all of our diseases. You are the One who knit us together in our mother's womb and you can cure our soul and body of every affliction. We pray that You would show forth Your power upon those in need today. The power of healing from Jesus' touch is just as real today as when You walked the earth. May Your compassion and mercy show forth in what transpires here today. Be glorified in Jesus' name. Amen.

Pastor

Throughout the pages of scriptures we witness the mystery of spiritual healing. The root of the Greek word interpreted "healing" in the New Testament, *sozo*, is the same root as the words for salvation and wholeness. God offers wholeness of body, mind, and spirit through His touch. Through our praise, confession, and worship, we acknowledge God's willingness to provide salvation and wholeness for the people He loves.

Elder #1:

"Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise (James 5:13)." "Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name (Psalm 103:1)." Please join me in praising God and affirming our faith through the Apostles' Creed: I believe in god, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; that He descended into Hades, and third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead; I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy general church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Elder #2:

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you (Matthew 7:7)." Friends, God knows our needs before we ask, but the act of asking prepares us to receive His gift of grace. James reminds us that confession is an integral part of healing: "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed (James 5:16)." As we come to a time of confession, let us remove every barrier that stands between God and ourselves. "If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

Prayer of Confession (*This may be individual silent prayer or the following may be used*):

Eternal Healer, You are our rock and hiding place. You have provided Your work of redemption while we were still lost in rebellion against You. We thank You for Your compassion and the unconditional love You provide for Your children. Cleanse our lives now from all unrighteousness and grant us Your gift of healing for our body, mind, and soul. Amen.

At this point the service could continue with either the Laying on of Hands or Anointing. Olive oil is the oil traditionally used in anointing, however it can become rancid. Sweet oil (olive oil with a preservative) is available in most pharmacies. Many Christian bookstores have vials of oil mixed with myrrh or other fragrances, however care should be taken because some people may be allergic to the perfumes used in the compounding the oil.

Pastor:

Will those who desire to receive (the laying on of hands or anointing) please come forward at this time? Please be united in prayer for those seeking God's touch.

Laying on of Hands

Pastor:

The Laying on of Hands illustrates the power of touch which accompanied many of the healings depicted for us in the New Testament. In the case of lepers or other outcasts, the touch of Jesus was probably almost as welcome as the healing the touch provided. The touch in the Laying on of Hands is a tangible expression of the presence of the healing Christ, working in and through those who minister in His name.

(Pronounce the individual name of each candidate upon which hands are to be laid.)

We lay our hands upon you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. May God grant you forgiveness for your sins; may He release you from the pain of suffering; may He restore you to wholeness in mind, body and soul; and may His Holy Spirit abide and comfort you through all adversity. *(The individual's personal need may also be addressed at this time if they wish to state it.)* We humbly request this in the name of our Lord who healed all the afflicted. Amen.

Anointing with Oil

Pastor:

Anointing with oil is a sign act invoking the power of God for the purpose of healing. Throughout scripture, oil is representative of the presence of the Holy Spirit. The oil points beyond itself and those ministering through the anointing to the action of the Holy Spirit and the presence of God's anointed One, Jesus Christ.

(Pronounce the individual name of each candidate as the oil is applied. The oil may be dabbed on the forehead or it may be applied in the sign of the cross.)

We anoint you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. May God grant you forgiveness for your sins; may He release you from the pain of suffering; may He restore you to wholeness in mind, body and soul; and may His Holy Spirit abide and comfort you through all adversity. *(The individual's personal need may also be addressed at this time if they wish to state it.)* We humbly request this in the name of our Lord who healed all the afflicted. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Our compassionate and merciful Heavenly Father, we recognize You as the source from Whom all healing flows. We thank You for the gift of Your Son, without Whom salvation and complete healing would be impossible. We also thank You for the privilege of being used, as Your disciples, to continue the healing ministry You instituted on earth. Thank You for Your gift of precious life on this earth and eternal life when we leave this world. Amen.

Suggested Scripture Passages

1 Kings 17:17-24

2 Kings 5:9-14

Psalm 13

Psalm 23

Psalm 30

Psalm 103:1-13

Matthew 8:1-13

Matthew 10:1-8

Matthew 15:21-18

Mark 1:21-28

Mark 1:29-34a

Mark 5:1-20

Luke 8:43-48

Luke 17:11-17

John 5:1-9

John 5:2-18

John 9:1-11

Acts 3:1-10

Psalms 139:1-17
Isaiah 35:1-10
Isaiah 40:28-31

Mark 5:21-43
Luke 5:17-26
Luke 7:11-17

Acts 5:12-16
2 Corinthians 1:3-5
James 5:13-16

Hymns

Come, Holy Spirit
I Expect a Miracle
If My People
Jesus, Lover of My Soul
Moment by Moment
Victory in Jesus
Where Cross the Crowded

Only Believe
Something Beautiful
The Great Physician
The Healer
Tower of Strength
You Can Touch Him

Choruses

A Shield About Me
Call on the Lord
Cares Chorus
Christ in Me
Cleanse Me
Draw Me Nearer
He Is Able
He Is Faithful
He Is Lord
He Is Our Peace
Hear My Cry

Hear, O Lord
Hide Me in Your Holiness
In His Time
In the Lord Alone
In the Quiet of the Morning
My Peace
Peace I Give to Thee
Something Beautiful
Where the Spirit of the Lord Is
You Are My Dwelling Place
You Are My Hiding Place