



## **Service of Holy Communion and Healing**

**Women of the ELCA Health Initiative**

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**SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION & HEALING**  
*Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls*

*(Make any logistical announcements here.)*

**GATHERING INTO THE HEART OF GOD**

*Please stand, as you are able.*

Leader: Come; gather in Christ's presence, Christ, our savior and healer.

**All: We have entered here, and in our worship together, we yearn for hope and comfort.**

Leader: Are any among us weary, heartsick with heavy burdens?

**All: We have come to a place of rest. Here we encounter Christ's healing and grace.**

Leader: Are any among us frantic and scattered, breathless in our busy-ness?

**All: We have come to a place of deep peace. In our worship, we meet the unhurried God.**

Leader: Are any among us feeling brittle and broken, thirsty for the gospel?

**All: We have come to encounter Jesus, the living water, soothing and ever-present.**

Leader: Are any among us feeling hollow and empty, hungry for truth?

**All: We have come to encounter Christ, the bread of life, sustaining and ever-filling.**

Leader: Here we are welcome, loved, and cherished.

**All: Here we encounter our Lord, who makes us whole.**

Leader: Let us reach to the heart of Jesus, who is our life.

**All: Here we are the people of God. Let us rejoice, give thanks and praise. Blessed be God, who delivers us! Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

**Song:** "Create in Me a Clean Heart" (*Sing twice.*)

**GOD'S WORD**

**Readings**

*"Faith comes by hearing." Please listen to each lesson and quietly reflect after each until the music begins.*

**Isaiah 61:1–3** (The Message)

The Spirit of GOD ... is on me because GOD anointed me.

[GOD] sent me to preach good news to the poor,  
heal the heartbroken,

Announce freedom to all captives,  
pardon all prisoners.

GOD sent me to announce the year of his grace—  
a celebration of God's destruction of our enemies—  
and to comfort all who mourn,

To care for the needs of all who mourn in Zion,

give them bouquets of roses instead of ashes,  
Messages of joy instead of news of doom,  
a praising heart instead of a languid spirit.

Reader: Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

*Allow up to a minute for reflection.*

**Song:** “Healing River of the Spirit” *Worship Boldly*, 105; verse 1 only

**Psalm 27** (NRSV)

*Read responsively.*

Reader: The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

**All: The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

R: When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh—my adversaries and foes—they shall stumble and fall.

**All: Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.**

R: One thing I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.

**All: For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.**

R: Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;

**All: I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**

R: Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

**All: “Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!” Your face, LORD, do I seek.**

R: Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

**All: If my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will take me up.**

R: Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

**All: Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence.**

R: I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

**All: Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!**

*Allow up to a minute for reflection.*

**Song:** “Healing River of the Spirit” *Worship Boldly* 105, verse 2

**Romans 8:18–28** (NRSV)

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

R: Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.  
All: **Thanks be to God.**

*Allow up to a minute for reflection.*

**Song:** “Healing River of the Spirit”

*Worship Boldly* 105, verse 3

**Mark 5:21–43** (Today’s New International Version)

When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. He pleaded earnestly with him, “My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.” So Jesus went with him.

A large crowd followed and pressed around him. And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.” Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my clothes?”

“You see the people crowding against you,” his disciples answered, “and yet you can ask, ‘Who touched me?’”

But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”

While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. “Your daughter is dead,” they said. “Why bother the teacher anymore?”

Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, “Don’t be afraid; just believe.”

He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. He went in and said to them, “Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep.” But they laughed at him.

After he put them all out, he took the child’s father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, “*Talitha koum!*” (which means “Little girl, I say to you, get up!”). Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you O Christ.**

*Invite the congregation to be seated for reflection:*

Leader: Please be seated. For our final silent meditation, please consider all things in need of a healing touch from the Lord—for you, for your family and friends, or for the world. Use the journals that were handed out to you to write, consider, or reflect on how Christ’s healing has been at work in your life or in the lives around you. We will spend about 5 minutes in reflective silence to allow you to consider your faith and what needs both cure and healing.

## **GOD’S WORD ACTIVE IN US**

Leader: Let us remember that we are daughters of God, beloved children by our baptisms into Christ. Through the healing waters, let us live together in trust and hope; we confess our faith. *(Please stand as you are able.)*

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our  
Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy  
Spirit and was born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.\***

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and  
the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic Church, the communion of**

**saints, the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen**

### **Confession of sins**

Leader: We have heard God’s saving word and have confessed our faith in God’s loving work. Let us confess all that creates dis-ease and separates us from God and one another.

All: **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 sorry, and now turn away from our sin before you.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us,  
that we may joyfully obey your will  
and walk in Your ways  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*(Silent reflection)*

Leader: God forgives you! In the name of our Redeemer Jesus, you are made whole. May the Holy Spirit strengthen and lead you to live your life fully and wholly, living together in love and peace with all God's people.

**All: Amen. Hallelujah!**

### **Prayers of God's people**

Leader: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs. *(A brief silence is held.)*

Leader: Let us pray for all who suffer, that all in pain or grief or any kind of suffering find strength and peace in Christ. Lord in your mercy,

**All:** *Respond throughout with "Shepherd Me, O God," refrain only* *Worship Boldly, p. 126*

L: Let us pray for those whose hearts are broken and whose hope has vanished, that their trust in God's promises may be renewed in Christ. Lord in your mercy,

**All:** *"Shepherd Me, O God"*

L: Let us pray for recovery from sickness, that God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of the suffering, may mercifully hear our prayers and grant to *(names)*, the healing power, that their sickness may be turned to health and our sorrow to joy in Christ. Lord in your mercy,

**All:** *"Shepherd Me, O God"*

L: Let us pray for the needs of all those living with HIV/AIDS *(especially...)*, that God's never-failing love may enfold them, that all who care for them may be strengthened in that ministry, and that the church may be to them a place of refuge where Christ is made known. Lord in your mercy,

**All:** *"Shepherd Me, O God"*

L: Let us pray for those who serve in the professions of healing, that God may guide physicians and nurses and all those called to practice the arts of healing. Strengthen them by your spirit so that the health of all people may be promoted and Christ glorified. Lord in your mercy,

**All:** *"Shepherd Me, O God"*

L: Let us pray for the ministry of family and friends. Give strength and gentleness, patience and faithfulness to family members and friends. Let their love be in you, and by their ministry of love let your love be known. Lord in your mercy,

**All:** *"Shepherd Me, O God"*

L: Let us pray for all those who depend upon 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. Lord in your mercy,

**All:** “*Shepherd Me, O God*”

*Prayers conclude with:*

Leader: Holy and blessed Trinity, sustain your servants 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 until the final day of victory when we all shall see you face to face.

**All:** **Blessed be God. Amen.**

*Someone may read from Luke’s Gospel:*

Reader: When the sun was setting the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. (Luke 4:40)

Leader: Jesus was physically broken, even to death, but returned to be among the living. To those who are ill, this is more than just a sign of healing, it is a promise, it is hope put into effect, it is something for them to share in. In Communion, Jesus is there, broken, spilled out. Brokenness was not the last word for Jesus, nor is it for those who follow Jesus.

### **Laying on of hands/anointing with oil**

*Those who come forward may stand or sit as necessary. The minister will be joined by others, and as participants come forward, they ask for what they want or need healing for. The assistants pray softly with each person who comes forward for a short while. Meanwhile, the congregants who did **not** come forward may be silently praying for those who **did** come forward.*

*The minister and assistants lay both hands on each person’s head. After a brief moment of quiet, he or she dips a thumb into the oil, takes it out, and uses it to make the sign of the cross on the person’s forehead, saying:*

L and A: You are anointed in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Giver of health and eternal life, send your Spirit, that (*person’s name*) may in repentance and faith, be made whole in body and spirit, and granted the victory of wellness and peace that will empower [name] to serve God.

**Person:** **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

*After all have returned to their places; invite all to stand.*

### **Blessing**

Leader: Merciful Lord God, constant source of all healing, we give you thanks for all your gifts of strength and life. Above all, we thank you for the gift of your Son, through whom we have health and salvation. As we wait for the 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,

**All:** **Amen.**

### **Sharing of God’s peace**

Leader: May the peace and wholeness of Christ be with you.

**All:**           **And also with you.**

Leader:       Please share the love and peace of God with others, as we have been restored and strengthened to serve others in God’s name.

*All are invited to share God’s peace with those around them. Return to your seat when finished.*

### **Offering**

*Leader will receive the offering from the ushers. Place gifts on the “altar.”  
Stand as you are able.*

Leader:       Gracious God, you open your hand and give to your people abundantly.

**All:**           **We thank you for all you have first given us—time, possessions, community, wholeness and your unending love in Jesus Christ. Receive the tokens that we give back to you for the healing and wholeness of your world. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **GOD’S HOLY GIFT**

**Great Thanksgiving** *(May be sung or spoken; leader decides.)*

**Sanctus:**    **Holy, Holy – “You are Holy”**

*Worship Boldly*

**Words of Institution**

**The Lord’s Prayer***(Contemporary version)*

Leader:       Taste and see that the Lord is good.

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

*Distribution will be by intinction; leader and assistants serve each other last.*

### **SENT BY GOD**

**Post-Communion Prayer**

**Closing**

Leader:       In Christ we are affirmed, forgiven, healed, empowered, converted, guided, and called.

**All:**           **And we respond by affirming, by forgiving, by healing, by creating.**

Leader:       Take heart and have courage. Jesus calls us to get up and go into the world.

**All:**           **Our eyes have been opened. We are witnesses to God’s marvelous work in the healing faith.**

Leader:       Jesus calls us to go, knowing that our faith continues to make us well.

**All:**           **We follow Christ in the world, trusting that his call will be made known.**

Leader:       Let each of us offer ourselves to be receivers and givers of God’s healing love.

Leader:       Let each of us offer ourselves to be receivers and givers of God’s healing love.

**All:**           **To God’s glory and honor, forever and ever. Amen.**

*Based on a liturgy by James K. Wagner, director of The Upper Room Prayer and Healing Ministries*

**Closing song:**       “Day is Done”

*Worship Boldly, 94*

**Blessing**

Leader: Go forth into this broken and hurting world with the blessing of the Father, the healing authority of the Son, Jesus Christ, and the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Go forth and bring healing with you wherever you go!

**All: Amen.**

Leader: Go in peace and wholeness to serve the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**