

A Healing Service for Recovering People

Part I: Entering into the presence of God.

If appropriate, the participants introduce themselves in the manner of AA – e.g., “I’m Peter and I’m an addict/alcoholic.” Following that, the presider invites the group to be in silence together, begun and ended by the ringing of a bell.

Celebrant: Grace and peace be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray: O blessed Lord, you ministered to all who came to you. Look with compassion on all who through addiction have lost their health and freedom. Restore to us the assurance of your unending love and unfailing mercy; remove from us the fears that beset us; strengthen us in the work of recovery; and to those who care for us, give patient understanding and persevering love. **Amen.**

People: *I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?
My help comes from my God,
The maker of heaven and earth.*

The Readings

Psalm (esp. Psalms 3,16,18,23,25,31,32,34,42,51,69,71,91,116,142)
Reading from AA or other recovery literature
Scripture reading
Reflection followed by silence.

Part II Surrendering to God

Celebrant: Let us turn our lives and our wills over to God in the words of the Third Step Prayer –

All: *God, I offer myself to Thee – to build with me and do with me as Thou wilt. Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do thy will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of Thy Power, Thy Love, and Thy Way of Life. May I do Thy will always.*

Prayers for Others

Celebrant: Let us pray now for our loved ones and for the world in which we live.

Gracious God, you have promised to be present when we gather together in your name. Be with us now as we pray for those who are in our hearts tonight.

Please name those, silently or out loud, for whom you wish to pray

.....
[concluding with "all who are suffering from addiction"]

All: *O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, now and forever. Amen.*

Confession of Sin

Celebrant: I invite us now in silence to reflect on those things we have done and left undone, said and left unsaid, for which we grieve and repent.

Silence

Let us now together confess our sins to God:

All: *God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of 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 delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your Name. Amen.*

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

Healing Service

Celebrant: We've prayed for others and confessed our sins. We will pray now for ourselves in a service of healing. The laying on of hands for healing of our spirits and our bodies is an ancient tradition in the Christian Church. I offer this now for anyone who wishes. I urge all of you to pray for the person on whom I am laying hands—we do this together!

Celebrant (to each participant): I lay my hands upon you and pray God to heal you in body, mind and spirit. Amen.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: *Holy and life-giving God, have mercy on us and all people we hold in prayer; help us to know the healing power of God's love. Empty us of all things that keep us from experiencing your healing. From pain and burdens too great to bear; from guilt and shame; from fearful memories and fear of the future; from addiction, from pride, greed, resentment, and bitterness, from lying and pretense, and from the depths of despair – healing Spirit set us free. Amen.*

Celebrant: Now, having confessed our sins and prayed for wholeness and healing for ourselves and for others, let us offer the gift of peace to one another:

Celebrant: The peace of God be always with you.

People: *And also with you.*

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: Let us now say together the prayer that Jesus taught us,

All: *Our Father, who art in heaven . . .*

Celebrant: In the presence of our Creator who has led us to this holy space and time, let us say together the full Serenity Prayer:

All: *God, grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, the courage to change the things we can and the wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time; accepting hardship as a pathway to peace; taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as we would have it; trusting that you will make all things right if we surrender to your will, so that we may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with you forever in the next. Amen.*

Celebrant: O loving God who yearns for each one of us to be freed from the addictions which possess us: By the might of your Spirit lift us, we pray, to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God. And may the blessing of God – the One who created and keeps on recreating us, the One who never stops reaching out to heal us, and the one who strengthens us in our weakness, be with you and remain with you, now and forever. Amen.