ORDERS FOR
CHRISTIAN HEALING
IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE APPROACH TO GOD

VOTUM
SENTENCES
SALUTATION
HYMN
PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*The minister may introduce the prayer with one of the following or another suitable call to confession.*

Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD”—and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

*Psalm 32:1, 3, 5*

or

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*I John 1:8-9*

and

Let us confess our sin to almighty God. Let us pray.

*Have mercy upon us, O God, according to your loving-kindness: according unto the multitude of your tender mercies, blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin, for we acknowledge our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Cast us not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from us. Restore unto us the joy of your salvation, and uphold us with your free spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*Adapted from Psalm 51*

or
Merciful God, in compassion for your sinful children you sent your Son Jesus Christ to be the savior of the world. Grant us grace to confess the sin which made it needful for him to be broken that we might be made whole, to be troubled in spirit that we might be given peace, to be put to death on the cross that we might be restored to life.

A brief period of silent confession may be allowed, after which the prayer shall continue.

Give us a true longing to be free from sin, and a true willingness to follow him who stooped to our need and who raises us up from the misery of sin to the wholeness of forgiven life, even Jesus Christ our Lord in whose name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit. Psalm 103:1-4a

or Psalm 30:1-3, Psalm 41:1-3, Ephesians 2:1-7 (8-10)

LAW OF GOD AND/OR SUMMARY OF THE LAW

PSALTER AND GLORIA

THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION
HYMN
LESSONS
SERMON
PRAYER FOR BLESSING ON THE WORD
CONFESSION OF FAITH
OFFERING
DOXOLOGY
THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

When the Sacrament is celebrated the following may be used in place of the Prayers of Intercession. When it is not celebrated, this Litany and Prayer of Thanksgiving may be used in place of the General Prayers.
THE RESPONSE TO GOD

LITANY OF INTERCESSION FOR HEALING

O God the Father, whose will for us and for all your people is health and salvation;

Have mercy on us.

O God the Son, who came that we might have life and have it in abundance;

Have mercy on us.

O God the Holy Spirit, whose indwelling makes our bodies the temples of your presence;

Have mercy on us.

O Triune God, we pray you to hear us, and that you will grant your grace to all who stand in need of healing both of body and spirit, and lead them to look with confidence to you;

We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.

That you will grant patience and perseverance to all who are disabled by injury or illness, and increase their courage;

We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.

That you will grant peace to all who are troubled by confusion or pain, and set their minds at rest;

We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.

That you will grant relief from suffering to all sick children, and give them a sure sense of your tender love and care;

We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.

That you will grant rest to all whose increasing years bring weariness, distress or loneliness, and give them the abiding comfort of your presence;
We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.

That you will grant confidence to all about to undergo surgery or difficult procedures, and keep them free from fear;

We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.

That you will grant purpose to the Church as it seeks to carry on Christ’s ministry of healing to suffering humanity, and keep it always true to the Gospel of Christ;

We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.

That you will grant skill and compassion to doctors, nurses, technicians, aides, and all who are called to practice medical arts, and make strong their dedication to help others;

We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.

That you will grant to all people the refreshment of quiet sleep and joy of resting in your everlasting arms, that we may rejoice in your care while we are on earth, and in the world to come have eternal life;

We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.

The Litany may continue with petitions for specific needs of the people. It may conclude with the following ascription:

O God, who in Jesus Christ called us out of the darkness into your marvelous light; enable us always to declare your wonderful deeds, thank you for your steadfast love, and praise you with heart, soul, mind, and strength, now and forever. Amen.

LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ANOINTING WITH OIL

Luke 9:1-2 and/or James 5:13-16 shall be read: After which the minister shall invite worshipers to receive the laying on of hands and anointing with oil using these or similar words:

In the name of the Lord Jesus who sent forth his disciples to preach the kingdom of God and to heal, we invite you who wish to receive the laying on of hands and the anointing with oil to come forward or summon us to come to your side.
We invite all here present to participate in this act of faith through the offering of silent prayers for those who seek Christian healing.

*Since healing is a ministry of the church it is appropriate that the minister be joined by one or two elders, or such persons as the board of elders may designate, for the laying on of hands. The minister or an elder may also anoint the worshiper with oil following the blessing.*

May the hands of the Great Physician, Jesus Christ, rest upon you now in divine blessing and healing. May the cleansing stream of his pure life fill your whole being, body, mind and spirit, to strengthen and heal you. Amen.

*or*

Eternal God, for Jesus’ sake, send your Holy Spirit upon your servant N________: drive away all sickness of body and spirit; make whole that which is broken. Grant deliverance from the power of evil, and true faith in Jesus Christ our Lord, who suffered on our behalf but also rose from death so that we, too, could live. In his name we pray. Amen.

*A brief silence may be kept after the last worshiper has been anointed.*

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

*After all have returned to their places the minister may offer the following or another appropriate thanksgiving prayer.*

Most gracious God, source of all healing; we give thanks to you for all your gifts but most of all for the gift of your Son, through whom you gave and still give health and salvation to all who believe. As we wait in expectation for the coming of that day when suffering and pain shall be no more, 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.

**HYMN**

**BENEDICTION**

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ON OTHER OCCASIONS

VOTUM, SENTENCES, SALUTATION
HYMN OF PRAISE
WORD OF EXPLANATION:

It is appropriate that the worship leader explain the nature of a service of Christian healing, emphasizing God’s presence and power to strengthen and support and bring increasing wholeness to his people.

PSALMS/HYMN
LESSON(S)
BRIEF SERMON
PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND SELF-EXAMINATION
INTERCESSIONS
LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ANOINTING WITH OIL
HYMN (OR PRAYER) OF THANKSGIVING
BENEDICTION

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IN HOME OR HOSPITAL VISITATION

Ministers, elders, deacons, or other visitors should use this service with sensitivity to the specific needs of the person(s) being visited and after ascertaining their willingness to participate in this act of faith. It would be most appropriate to use this service after a preliminary conversation and expression of pastoral concern.

SALUTATION

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. We are here in the name of the Lord Jesus whose ministry to God’s people was one of healing power and saving grace. He promised those who believe in him that he would be with them always, and his promise is true. He is present among us still to heal and to make whole.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Now in the presence of the Lord, let us confess our sins. Let us pray.

Silence may be kept, after which one of the visitors may offer the following, or another prayer.
O God, who hears our prayers before we speak them, who knows our needs before we raise them up; you have heard the confession of our hearts. Now grant us your mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ our Lord, who came into the world to rescue us from sin and bring us to life in him. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*The following, or another scriptural assurance may be read.*

With everlasting love I will have compassion on you, says the Lord your Redeemer. I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins. Return to me, for I have redeemed you.

*Isaiah 54:8, 43:35, 44:22*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Prayers may be offered for the person being visited asking for God’s healing love and tender care to be granted in Christ’s name. The prayers may be concluded with the following petition:*

O God, who in Jesus Christ called us out of the darkness into your marvelous light; enable us always to declare your wonderful deeds, thank you for your steadfast love, and praise you with heart, soul, mind, and strength, now and forever. Amen.

LESSONS

*One or more brief passages of Scripture may be read. Those cited in the Order for the Visitation of the Sick, Liturgy 1968 (pp. 170-1) may be especially appropriate. One or both of the following lessons shall be read:*

And [Jesus] called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal.


*and/or*

Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is any one happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord, and the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.

*James 5:13-15 NIV*
LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ANOINTING WITH OIL

The pastoral visitors shall lay hands on the head of the sick person. One of them may say one of the following after which the sick person may be anointed with oil.

May the hands of the Great Physician, Jesus Christ, rest upon you now in divine blessing and healing. May the cleansing stream of his pure life fill your whole being, body, mind and spirit, to strengthen and heal you. Amen.

or

Eternal God, for Jesus’ sake, send your Holy Spirit upon your servant N______; drive away all sickness of body and spirit; make whole that which is broken. Grant deliverance from the power of evil, and true faith in Jesus Christ our Lord, who suffered on our behalf, but also rose from death so that we, too, could live. In his name we pray. Amen.

A brief silence may be kept, after the sick person has been anointed.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us give thanks to the Lord. Let us pray.

Most gracious God, source of all healing; we give thanks to you for all your gifts but most of all for the gift of your Son, through whom you gave and still give health and salvation to all who believe. As we wait in expectation for the coming of that day when suffering and pain shall be no more, 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.

BENEDICTION