ORDER FOR THE VISITATION OF THE SICK

Those who visit the sick should prayerfully prepare for a brief visit. With understanding, hope, and cheer, let them seek to lead the sick to confidence in God and to a victorious witness. The Scripture and the Prayer should, whenever possible, be related to the conversation.

Scripture

For several occasions, some passages and verses are suggested, to which the minister, elder, or visitor may add others of his own choosing appropriate to the occasion.

BEFORE AN OPERATION

I Timothy 1:12; Philippians 4:13; Psalm 91:1, 11; Isaiah 30:15b; Matthew 28:20; Psalm 46:1

CONFIDENCE IN GOD

Psalm 23; Psalm 46:1; Psalm 27:103; Ephesians 3:20; Romans 8:38-39; Hebrews 13:5b

THE PURPOSE OF SUFFERING

John 9:1-3; John 11:3, 4; Psalm 66:10; Hebrews 12:6, 11; Job 1:8-12; Job 42:5, 6; II Corinthians 1:3-5

SENSE OF GUILT OR FAILURE

Psalm 51:1, 7-10; Isaiah 1:18; Psalm 103:8; John 6:37; Luke 15:7; I John 1:9

ANXIETY

Psalm 26:3; Isaiah 30:15; Philippians 4:7-8; Matthew 6:34; Psalm 42:1-5

PATIENCE

Romans 5:3-4; Psalm 46:10a; Job 42:10; James 5:10-11; Philippians 4:13
DISCOURAGEMENT AND DISAPPOINTMENT

Psalm 37:7; Psalm 138:8; Matthew 11:28; Isaiah 40:31; Psalm 6

AGED PERSONS

Psalm 16:5-11; Psalm 71:16-24; Luke 2:29-32; II Timothy 4:7-8

SLEEPLESSNESS

Psalm 4:8; Psalm 30:5b; Psalm 46:10a; I Peter 5:7; I John 4:18

FEAR OF DEATH

Psalm 23:4; Romans 8:37-39; John 14:1ff; Isaiah 12:2; Psalm 46:1-4; Isaiah 41:10

HOPE AT THE TIME OF DEATH

Psalm 23; John 14:1-3; II Corinthians 5:1; I Corinthians 15:57; Revelation 21:4-5; Revelation 22:3-5

THANKSGIVING


CHILDBIRTH

Psalm 116:1-5; Psalm 127:3-5a; John 16:21-22; James 1:17; Mark 10:14-16; Deuteronomy 6:7; Proverbs 22:6; II Corinthians 12:9a

Hymn

A hymn may appropriately be used on occasion, such as, O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go; Abide in Me; What a Friend We Have in Jesus, and others.

Prayer

A few suggested prayers are given. These will not be appropriate for all occasions, but may serve as models. Others may be found in the Treasury of Prayers under Special Intercessions.
BEFORE AN OPERATION

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we pray thee for this thy servant about to submit to surgery. Enable him, by thy Holy Spirit, to commit himself with perfect trust into thy keeping. Watch over him and protect him in the hours of darkness. Preserve him and his loved ones in the faith that is in Jesus Christ, who for us endured the cross. Bless and guide the surgeons and nurses who will tend him and give success to their work, that we may praise thee for thy goodness. And finally, O Lord, grant that thy servant may so live through this experience with cheerful courage that he may be the means of helping others in their time of trial; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Written for this Treasury.

FOR CONFIDENCE IN GOD

O Lord, by all thy dealings with us, whether of joy or pain, of light or darkness, let us be brought to thee. Let us value no treatment of thy grace simply because it makes us happy or because it makes us sad, because it gives us or denies us what we want; but may all that thou sendest us bring us to thee, that, knowing thy perfectness, we may be sure in every disappointment that thou art still loving us, and in every enforced idleness that thou art still using us; yea, in every death that thou art giving us life, as in his death thou didst give life to thy Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

FOR FREEDOM FROM ANXIETY

O God our Father, who willest us to give thanks for all things, to dread nothing but the loss of thee, and to cast all our cares on thee; thou who carest for us, preserve us from faithless fears and worldly anxieties, and grant that no clouds of this mortal life may hide from us the light of that love which is eternal and which thou dost manifest to us in Jesus Christ thy Son, our Lord. Hear us for his sake. Amen.

FOR HEALING

Almighty God, who are the giver of all health and the aid of them who turn to thee for help, we thank thee for the assurance of thy presence and the means that are given in this hospital for healing. Be with the doctors and nurses; grant them skill and wisdom; and give thy servant a spirit of cooperation and trust in thee. Grant that, by thy Holy Spirit, and
in thy good time, this thy servant $N$ will be enabled to go upon his way rejoicing and to give thee continual thanks for thy sustaining providence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FOR THANKSGIVING

Most merciful God and Father, who art the source of all life, we praise thee for thy wonderful goodness; for the prayers of thy people; for having turned our heaviness into joy and our mourning into gladness by giving a measure of recovery. We thank thee that thou hast given thy servant patience and submission to thy will. Perfect, we pray thee, this thy mercy toward him and continue to prosper all that is used for his healing, and to thee be all the honor and glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FOR A SURRENDERED LIFE

Father of mercies, God of all comfort, God of love and Author of life, in whom we live and move and have our being, do thou stay our minds on thee in hours of sickness and when we are beset by fears. Let us be still and know that thou art God. Quiet the multitude of our thoughts within us. Take from us all fret and care. Give us repose of spirit. Good Shepherd, make us to lie down in green pastures. Lead us beside still waters, and restore our souls. Hear us in this our prayer; through Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord. Amen.