

## **Service of Healing - "Bread of Life"**

2004 Synod Study Conference

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A container filled with sand was used as a visual image – with worshippers placing a lit candle into the sand following prayer and anointing.

This Service of Healing was prepared by the Study Conference Chaplains: Pastors Dawn Nelson and Larry Kochendorfer.

Multiple copies of the songbook used during the Study Conference: *Renewing Worship Songbook: New Hymns and Songs for Provisional Use*, are available for borrowing from our Synod office.

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### GATHERING

Greeting

Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

Leader: We return to the waters of our baptism, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen

L: Through water and the Spirit God gives us new life. Let us confess our sin that we may be renewed in the covenant of our baptism.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)

L: Most merciful God,

P: have mercy on us.

L: Strong and faithful God,

P: In Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in the darkness. We confess to you 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 trusted you with our whole heart; we have not loved one another in deed and in truth. We have not welcomed the light, nor trusted the good news of great joy. Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we may live in the fullness of your love, trusting in the grace of Christ our Lord. Amen

L: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, came among us to proclaim release to the captives, to free the oppressed, to restore wholeness to the broken. Today the promise is fulfilled: God forgives you all your sins. May the Holy Spirit strengthen you to follow Christ in newness of life.  
P: Amen. Thanks be to God!

#### Songs of Gathering

264 Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

179 Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather

127 Christ, Be Our Light

refrain - all

vs. 1-2 - all

vs. 3 - women

vs. 4 - men

vs. 5 - all

#### WORD

##### Scripture Readings

Exodus 16:9-15 *Manna in the wilderness*

Psalms 23 *You anoint my head with oil*

All: The LORD is my shepherd,  
I shall not be in want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;  
he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff -  
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
my whole life long.

John 6:47-51 *I am the bread of life*

#### Sermon

Hymn

197 We Come to You for Healing, Lord

## HEALING

### Introduction

L: Our Lord Jesus healed many who were sick or hurting and sent the disciples to continue this work of healing. Through prayer in Jesus' name, the laying on of hands and anointing, the disciples witnessed to the power and presence of God.

“When we pray for healing, we ask God to be part of the struggle all people share – the search for wholeness in the midst of disease, illness and brokenness. God, in turn, invites each of us to explore and grow in our understanding of and trust in God's intervention in this struggle” (Richard J. Beckman, *Praying for Wholeness and Healing*).

In the name of Christ, the Bread of Life, we now entrust to God all who are in need of healing and hope. We offer our prayers for those who are gathered here commending them to the grace of Jesus Christ, praying that God will ease their suffering and grant them health and salvation.

### Litany for Healing

L: Let us pray for all who are in need of healing and hope.

Merciful God, by the wounds of your Son we are healed. Bring health and hope to all your people. In your great mercy,  
People: hear us, O God.

L: Loving God, our source and our final home, we give you thanks for the gifts of life on earth and of new life in baptism. In your great mercy,  
P: hear us, O God.

L: Holy God, your Spirit came over the waters of baptism and brought us into the communion of saints. Renew in us the grace of baptism, by which we share in Christ's death and resurrection. In your great mercy,  
P: hear us, O God.

L: Holy God, Holy One, your Son prayed that your people may be one. May the gift of baptism be a power for healing the church's brokenness, and bless all efforts for renewal and Christian unity. In your great mercy,  
P: hear us, O God.

L: Mighty God, whose Son brought healing and wholeness to all, bring your healing presence now to all who are sick or in pain, and to all who have lost hope. In your great mercy,  
P: hear us, O God.

L: Compassionate God, the strength of those who suffer, bring hope and peace to all who are in mental,

physical, or spiritual distress. In your great mercy,  
P: hear us, O God.

L: God of great and abundant mercy, with your presence sustain all whom we name before you now....  
Ease their suffering, give them firm hope, and strengthen their trust in you. In your great mercy,  
P: hear us, O God.

L: Almighty God, source of human knowledge, give skill, wisdom, and compassion to all who provide  
medical care. In your great mercy,  
P: hear us, O God.

L: Loving God, our creator and redeemer, give gentleness and hope to family members, friends, and  
caregivers of those who suffer. In your great mercy,  
P: hear us, O God.

L: Eternal God, we thank you for all the faithful departed. For those whom we remember and name  
before you now.... Heal the pain of all who grieve. In your great mercy,  
P: hear us, O God.

L: Gracious God, in baptism you anointed us with the oil of salvation, and joined us to the death and  
resurrection of your Son. Bless all who seek your healing presence in their lives. In their suffering draw  
them more deeply into the mystery of your love, that following Christ in the way of the cross,  
they may know the power of his resurrection; who lives and reigns forever and ever.  
All: Amen

#### The Lord's Prayer

#### Blessing of Oil

(Those servants who will lay on hands and anoint or who will assist gather at the altar.)

L: We give you thanks, O God, source of life and health, for in Jesus you became flesh and came to know  
the depth of human suffering. You sent the disciples to heal those who were sick. Bless this oil, that all  
who are anointed with it may be healed, strengthened, and renewed by the power of your Holy Spirit.  
All: Amen.

#### Laying On of Hands

(Those who desire to receive the laying on of hands and anointing may come forward using the side  
aisles - specific requests for healing prayer may be shared - following the anointing a candle will be given  
to you - please light the candle from the Christ candle and place it in one of the containers provided.)

#### Anointing with Oil

Name, Almighty God bless you with the healing power of the Holy Spirit, release you from suffering, and  
restore you to wholeness, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Response: Amen.

#### Hymns

293 Holy, Holy

286 Holy Ground

272 Shepherd Me, O God

271 As the Deer

294 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

#### Prayer

L: Let us pray.

P: God of mercy, source of all healing, we give you thanks for your gifts of strength and life, and especially for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, the health and salvation of the world. Help us by your Holy Spirit to feel your power in our lives and to know your eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### SENDING

#### Blessing

L: May the God of all consolation bless you in every way and grant you hope all the days of your life. May God restore you to health and grant you salvation. May God fill your heart with peace and lead you to eternal life. Almighty God bless you, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit.

P: Amen.

#### Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God.

#### Sending Hymn

277 Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song