

ANTE COMMUNION HEALING SERVICE



WEDNESDAY IN THE THIRD WEEK OF LENT

OPENING SALUTATION Blessed be God: father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *And blessed be his Kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

PENITENTIAL ORDER If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:8,9

The Deacon or Celebrant then says: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
Silence may be kept.

Minister and People *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 truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.*

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. *And also with you.*

Give ear to our prayers, O Lord, and direct the way of your servants in safety under your protection, that, amid all the changes of our earthly pilgrimage, we may be guarded by your mighty aid; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 4:1-2,5-9

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy

Moses said: So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you. See, just as the Lord my God has charged me, I now teach you statutes and ordinances for you to observe in the land that you are about to enter and occupy. You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

PSALM 78:1-6 Attendite, popule

¹ Hear my teaching, O my people; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

² *I will open my mouth in a parable; I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.*

³ That which we have heard and known, and what our forefathers have told us, we will not hide from their children.

⁴ *We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, and the wonderful works he has done.*

⁵ He gave his decrees to Jacob and established a law for Israel, which he commanded them to teach their children;

⁶ *That the generations to come might know, and the children yet unborn; that they in their turn might tell it to their children;*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 5:17-19

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven." The Gospel of the Lord. *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

HOMILY

A LITANY OF HEALING

Deacon: Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers.

The People audibly name those for whom they are interceding.

Lector: God the Father, your will for all people is health and salvation; ***we praise you and thank you, O Lord.***

God the Son, you came that we might have life, and might have it more abundantly; ***we praise you and thank you, O Lord***

God the Holy Spirit, you make our bodies the temple of your presence; ***we praise you and thank you, O Lord.***

Holy Trinity, one God, in you we live and move and have our being; ***we praise you and thank you, O Lord.***

Lord, grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured, or disabled, that they may be made whole; ***Hear us, O Lord of life.***

Grant to all who seek your guidance, and to all who are lonely, anxious, or despondent, a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence: ***Hear us, O Lord of life.***

Mend broken relationships, and restore those in emotional distress to soundness of mind and serenity of spirit; ***Hear us, O Lord of life.***

Bless physicians, nurses, and all others who minister to the suffering, granting them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience; ***Hear us, O Lord of life.***

Grant to the dying peace and a holy death, and uphold by the grace and consolation of your Holy Spirit those who are bereaved; ***Hear us, O Lord of life.***

Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin, in our lives, in our nation, and in the world; ***Hear us, O Lord of life.***

You are the Lord who does wonders: ***You have declared your power among the peoples.***

With you, O Lord, is the well of life: ***And in your light we see light.***

Hear us, O Lord of life: ***Heal us, and make us whole.***

Let us pray. *A period of silence follows.*

Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ANOINTING Savior of the world, by your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us. ***Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.***

O God, the source of all health: So fill our hearts with faith in your love, that with calm expectancy we may make room for your power to possess us, and gracefully accept your healing. Comfort and relieve all those for whom we pray, give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that they may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

If you desire to receive the Laying on hands for yourself or on behalf of someone else, let us know.

N., I lay my hands upon you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, beseeching our Lord Jesus Christ to sustain you with his presence, to drive away all sickness of body and spirit, and to give you that victory of life and peace which will enable you to serve him both now and evermore.

THE PEACE The peace of the Lord be always with you. *And also with you.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER And now, filled by the Spirit we may pray, *Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.*

A COLLECT FOR PEACE Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquility your dominion may increase until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION Let us pray, *Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.* (St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

THE BLESSING May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

THE DISMISSAL Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! *Thanks be to God!*