

Edgebrook Lutheran Church

Lenten Midweek Service

Wednesday, March 25, 2020



Knowing that Jesus is with us in our brokenness,
our journey through Lent leads us to a place of healing and wholeness.

Tonight, as we reflect on the story of Jesus and the man born blind,
we are reminded of God's inclusive welcome to all people and consider the
physical healing that comes through Jesus' presence, Jesus' command, and
the common elements that God has created.

In its ministry of healing, the church does not replace the gifts of God that
come through the scientific community, nor does it promise a cure.
The church offers and celebrates gifts such as these: God's presence with
strength and comfort in time of suffering, God's promise of wholeness and
peace, and God's love embodied in the community of faith.

GATHERING

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

We gather in the name of the triune God, our healer, our hope, our only home. We come to hear the promises of God, to pray for healing and for one another, and to be sent into the world as wounded healers and bearers of Christ's love. We invite silence and stillness as we immerse ourselves in scripture, song, and prayer. Our singing is a way of breathing prayer to God.

Brief silence.

GATHERING SONG

Only You, O God

Refrain



On - ly you, O God, and you a - lone, the



bro - ken heart con - sole. On - ly you, O God, and



you a - lone, the wound - ed world make whole.



1 O God, our rock and ha - ven, our
2 You guard us, faith - ful fa - ther, with -
3 We pray, do not a - ban - don the



strong - hold, safe and sure, though earth be torn and
in your shelt - 'ring palm; you nurse us, lov - ing
ones you call your own; our com - fort and com -



sha - ken, in you we stand se - cure.
moth - er, with milk and heal - ing balm.
pan - ion, we trust in you a - lone.

Refrain

Text: Susan Briehl

Music: African American spiritual

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GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray... Healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow, we gather as those in need of your healing – in need of prayer, blessing, and anointing. Welcome us back to your goodness and love. Tell us again that we are sealed by the Holy Spirit and forever marked with the cross of Christ. Remind us that you are our God and we are your beloved children. We pray in the name of the one who is health and salvation for the whole world.

Amen.

READING – Psalm 23

A Psalm of David.

¹ The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;

³ he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

⁴ 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.

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The reading of scripture is followed by extended silence for reflection and meditation.

REFLECTION

The gospel of John tells this story of healing.

Silence for reflection follows.

HEALING

Introduction

Jesus healed many as a sign of the reign of God come near and sent the disciples to continue this work of healing. In the name of Christ, the great healer and reconciler of the world, we now entrust to God all who are in need of healing.

Prayers

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and especially for all who are suffering or are in any affliction.

Silent prayer may follow.

Merciful God, you sent your Son to be our peace. Help all those who suffer any pain or grief, hopelessness or anxiety.

In your great mercy,

Heal us, Lord, and re-new our lives. Heal us, Lord, and re - new our lives.

Mighty God, mercifully grant strength to the weak and comfort to those who suffer, that their sickness and pain may be turned into health.

In your great mercy, heal us, Lord, and renew our lives.

Heal us, Lord, and renew our lives.

God of peace and reconciliation, bring an end to the sickness of the world, especially violence, terrorism, war, and their causes.

In your great mercy, heal us, Lord, and renew our lives.

Heal us, Lord, and renew our lives.

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, heal us, Lord, and renew our lives.

Heal us, Lord, and renew our lives.

Loving God, mend broken relationships and bring peace to our families, our congregation, this community, and the world. In your great mercy, heal us, Lord, and renew our lives.

Heal us, Lord, and renew our lives.

Eternal God, we thank you for all the faithful departed [including those whom we remember before you now . . .].

Heal the pain of all who grieve.

In your great mercy, heal us, Lord, and renew our lives.

Heal us, Lord, and renew our lives.

O God, we bring these intercessions before you, knowing that you will hear us as you have promised, and will answer according to the mercy shown in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Blessing of the Body

This worship service was originally crafted for laying on of hands and individual prayer. To adapt this, we invite you to use your hands to bless parts of your body, and to take time for personal prayer throughout the worship service and after.

For those who are joining us via livestream or the video, please follow along. If you are using this worship resource as a devotional apart from livestream and video, scroll down to the last page to find the full text for Blessing of the Body.

Find a place to sit comfortably, if you haven't already, and let's focus our breathing so that our heart beats to the rhythm of blessing. If you would like, you can do this practice with eyes closed, at the direction of the video. We start by taking a deep breath through our mouths, and breathe out through our nose. Repeat three times.

Place your hand on the top of your head. Take another deep breath, and pray with me in blessing...

Now touch your forehead...

Touch one of your ears...

Place your palm on your closed eyes...

Place a finger on your lips ...

Touch the side of your nose...

Place one hand on top of one the other with your palms up...

Touch your skin on the top of your hand...

Place your hands over your heart...

Extend your hand in blessing to your foot or your toes...

We conclude by taking a deep breath through our mouths, and breath out through our nose. Repeat three times.

Let us pray...

Living God, it was through your power you made me who I am, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Grant comfort in suffering to all who are in need of healing. When we are afraid, give us courage; when afflicted, give patience; when dejected, give hope; and when alone, assure us of the support of your holy people. Help me to remember that all I am is a gift from you, and help me to live so my entire self may be of service to you and those in need. We ask you to fill us with your Spirit that we might know your peace and share your love in this broken world. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep, who taught us to pray...

LORD'S PRAYER

**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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

BLESSING

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

SENDING

When you rise, go in peace. Pray for one another.

COMPLETE BODY BLESSING

Find a place to sit comfortably. We start by taking a deep breath through our mouths, and breath out through our nose. Repeat this three times. You are encouraged to remember your breathing and take a deep breath as you place your hand in blessing.

Place your hand on the top of your head and we say together; **We thank you Lord for giving us our minds so we may know of your love for us. We give to you the fears, the anxiety, the sorrow, the pain we carry with us.**

Now touch your forehead and say, **May God give me insight and help me to think clearly with kind and wise thoughts.**

Touch one of your ears and say, **May God help me to listen to what God is saying to me through scripture, music and the voice of others.**

Close one of your eyes, place your finger on it and say, **May God give me the vision to see more clearly the path that God has set before me. May God help me to look upon others with love.**

Now say concerning your mouth, **May God help me to speak with love, proclaim the truth, and make my needs known. May I laugh at the absurdities of life and taste life with joy and enthusiasm.**

Touch the side of your nose and say, **with each breath I take, may God help me to be reminded of the cycle of life with its dying and rising, its emptying and filling. May I breathe in the aroma of goodness and breathe out what needs to be let go.**

Place one hand on top of one the other and say, **May God help me to use my hands to touch all of life with reverence and gratitude. May these hands reach out with care to others. May these hands be willing to receive from others.**

Touch your skin on the top of your hand and say, **May God help me not be too thick-skinned or too thin-skinned as I go through life. God help me to reverence and protect the dignity of others no matter what color of skin they have.**

Place one hand over your heart and say **May God help me to develop an awareness of what stirs deep within me. May God help me to have a vibrant, compassionate heart, one that is filled with generosity and kindness.**

Touch one of your feet and say **O God, as I travel through the many ups and downs of life, may all the places my feet take me lead to places of service to you and to your people.**

We conclude by taking a deep breath through our mouths, and breath out through our nose. Repeat three times.