

Visiting the Sick

Ministry to the Sick

GREETING

1.

On entering the house or other place where the sick person is, the Minister may say:

Peace be to this house, and to all who live here **or** The peace of the Lord be with you always

SUITABLE PASSAGES OF SCRIPTURE

2 Confidence in God: Psalms 27; 46; 91; 121; 139:1 13; Proverbs 3:11 26;

Isaiah 26:1 9; 40:1 11; 40:25 end; Lamentations 3:22 33; Hosea 6:1 3;

Matthew 6:24 end; 11:25 30; Romans 8:31 end.

Healing in answer to prayer: 2 Kings 20:1 5; Psalms 30; 34;138.

Prayer for divine aid: Psalms 13; 43; 86; 143; James 5:10 end.

Penitence: Psalms 51; 130.

Praise and thanksgiving: Psalms 103; 146; Isaiah 12.

A simple girl spreads the good news about God's healing: 2 Kings 5:1 14.

God's dealing with his people through affliction: Job 33:14 30; Hebrews 12:1 11.

Christ our example in suffering: Isaiah 53; Matthew 26:36 46; Luke 23:26 49.

Jesus, the Lord's servant, is to bring healing and good news for the afflicted:

Isaiah 61:1 3.

Healing is a sign of the coming of the kingdom of God: Matthew 10:1, 7 8;

Luke 7:20 23.

It is associated with preaching: Mark 6:7 13.

Jesus Christ heals in many different ways: by a word: Mark 10:46 52. by touch: Matthew 8:1 4; Luke 4:40. – by gesture and word: Mark 7:32 37. by other physical means: Mark 7:32 37; John 9:1 7. gradually: Mark 8:22 25. at a distance: John 4:46 53. by rebuke: Luke 4:38 41. after long standing illness: Mark 5:25 34; John 5:2 9. when others bring a sick person: Mark 2:1 12. various healings: Matthew 15:29 31.

Healing connected with prayer and repentance: James 5:14 16.

Healing in response to faith and prayer: Mark 9:14 29,

The response to healing:

the need to stay with Jesus and sin no more: Mark 10:46 52; John 5:1 15.

the need for thanksgiving: Luke 17:11 19.

Christ's followers are also called to heal:

through the name of Jesus: John 14:12 14; Acts 3:1 10; 4:8 12; 9:32 35; 16:16 18.

by a word: Acts 14:8 10.

by touch: Acts 28:7 9.

If physical healing does not happen: Psalm 73:21 26; Luke 22: 42; 2 Corinthians 12:7 10.

God's call to repentance and faith: Isaiah 55.

The Beatitudes: Matthew 5:1 12.

Watchfulness: Luke 12:32 40.

Christ the good shepherd: Psalm 23; John 10:1 18.

The Resurrection: John 20:1 18; 20:19 end; 2 Corinthians 4:13 5:9.

The Redemption: Romans 5:1 11; 8:14 end; 1 John 1:1 9.

Christian love: 1 Corinthians 13.

Growth in grace: Ephesians 3:13 end; 6:10 20; Philippians 3:7 14.

Patience in suffering: 2 Corinthians 4:16 18; James 5:10 end.

God's love for us: 1 John 3:1 7; 4:9 end.

The life of the world to come: Revelation 7:9 end; 21:1 7; 21:22 end; 22:1 5.

Our Lord's last discourse before his passion: John 14, 15, 16, 17.

PRAYERS

4 Lord of all grace and blessing, look with mercy on your servant N. Strengthen his faith, defend him against all evil, and keep him in peace and in the awareness of your loving presence, now and always. Amen

5 Heavenly Father, during his life on earth your Son Jesus Christ healed the sick and brought peace to those who were distressed and sorrowful. We commend to your loving care our brother N: grant him relief from pain and healing of body, mind and spirit; to those who are anxious about him give your peace and comfort; and to those who tend him give wisdom, skill and compassion; for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son our Saviour. Amen

For a sick child

6 Heavenly Father, you are always close to us; bless your child N, take away his pain, keep him in your love and make him well and strong again; for Jesus' sake. Amen

7 N, may you know the presence of the Lord Jesus with you, giving you his peace and love. May he help you to bear your illness bravely; may he help you sleep and make you well again; for his dear Name's sake. Amen

Before an operation

8 Heavenly Father, help N to trust you and not be afraid. May he cast all his care upon you, knowing that you care for him. Take from him all anxiety. As he becomes unconscious may he know that underneath are the ever-lasting arms. Guide and use the surgeon and all others who minister to N and grant them success in their labours; for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen

9 N, may the Lord bless you as you face your operation. May he take from you all fear and anxiety and keep you in his peace. May he give (N) your surgeon and all others who minister to you skill, wisdom and compassion, and may you be speedily restored to health; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

During prolonged illness

10 Heavenly Father, sanctify this time of sickness that it may become a blessing for N, and in your good time restore him to health, that he may spend the rest of his life in your service and finally dwell with you in the fulness of eternal life. Amen

11 Lord Jesus Christ, by your cross and passion you redeemed the world: to all who face long continued suffering grant patience, courage, and an unshakeable trust in your love; help them to offer their weakness with thanksgiving to you; strengthen them to go on seeking your perfect will, that having endured with you they may also live and reign with you, now and for ever. Amen

For one in great pain

12 Almighty Father, grant to N healing and release from pain, and your gifts of peace and hope, of courage and endurance. Cast out from him the spirit of anxiety and fear, and grant him perfect confidence and trust in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

For one with chronic or terminal illness

13 Lord God almighty, your thoughts are not our thoughts, neither are your ways our ways. We stand in awe and humility before the mystery of suffering. Grant N the faith and courage to accept his suffering in the spirit of Christ, and the grace to offer it in union with his passion to be used according to your eternal purposes. Fill him with your peace and support him with your love, that he may give glory to your Name; through Jesus Christ your Son our Saviour. Amen

For one who is troubled in mind or spirit

14 Blessed Lord, Father of all mercy and giver of all comfort, look with compassion on N in his present distress. Give him a clearer understanding of himself and of your love for him; reveal your will to him; cast out all fear and doubt and grant him that peace which passes understanding; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

For one who is losing hope

15 Gracious Father, give N the gift of hope amidst his perplexity and pain, that in quietness and trust he may find his rest in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

16 N, may God renew in you his gifts of faith and hope and love, and may he give you his joy and his peace; through Jesus Christ. Amen

For a convalescent

17 Heavenly Father, we give you thanks and praise for the healing N has already received. Continue your gracious work in him, that rejoicing in the knowledge of your love and goodness, he may be fully restored to health and strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

For those who tend the sick

18 Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ went about doing good and healing all kinds of illness: continue his gracious work among us in hospitals and homes and wherever his people gather. Give wisdom, sympathy and patience to those who minister to the sick, and prosper all that is being done to prevent suffering and to forward the purposes of your love; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

For the family of the sick person

19 God our Father, be with all who love N. Watch over and protect them, strengthen their faith, unite them in your love and fill them with peace and confidence in your goodness; for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen

For sleep

20 Heavenly Father, you give your children sleep for the refreshing of body and soul: grant N this gift; keep him in that perfect peace which you have promised to those whose minds are fixed on you; and grant that in the hours of silence he may enjoy the assurance of your love; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen

An evening prayer

21 Watch, Lord, with those who wake or watch or weep this night. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, comfort the dying relieve the suffering and calm the distressed; for your dear Name's sake. Amen