

CHAPTER 6 PRAYER SERVICE

All: In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: O Lord, my God,
please give me the grace to maintain my hope in you,
through all of life's changes,
and to taste and see your goodness.
I praise you for the gifts you have showered on me for so many years.
Help me find joy in a renewed strength of spirit.
Please bless me with good health, and inspire me to be a good example to others.
For you are Lord, forever and ever. Amen.

Reader: A reading from the Holy Gospel According to Luke.

One day as Jesus was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and Jerusalem, and the power of the Lord was with him for healing. And some men brought on a stretcher a man who was paralyzed; they were trying to bring him in and set [him] in his presence. But not finding a way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on the stretcher through the tiles into the middle in front of Jesus. When he saw their faith, he said, "As for you, your sins are forgiven."

Then the scribes and Pharisees began to ask themselves, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who but God alone can forgive sins?" Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them in reply, "What are you thinking in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the man who was paralyzed, "I say to you, rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home."

He stood up immediately before them, picked up what he had been lying on, and went home, glorifying God. Then astonishment seized them all and they glorified God, and, struck with awe, they said, "We have seen incredible things today." The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: In this story from the Gospel of Luke, the paralyzed man's friends find a way to bring him into the presence of Jesus for healing, despite the roadblocks they face along the way. Let us imitate their faith and friendship by bringing our brothers and sisters in Christ to the Father for healing.

Reader: Our response will be “Lord hear our prayer.” For all those who seek healing in their bodies, may God turn their pain into strength. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For all those who seek healing in their minds, may God turn their sadness and fear into joy and peace. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For all those who seek healing in their spirits, may they encounter the truth, beauty, and goodness of God’s love. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For all doctors, nurses, therapists, and caregivers who work to heal the sick and suffering, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Let us now take a moment to remember our loved ones who are suffering in body, mind, and spirit in the silence of our hearts.

(Pause for a few moments of silence.)

We bring these loved ones, and all those who suffer but have no one to pray for them, to God the Divine Physician and Father of us all as we pray . . .

All: Our Father . . .

All: In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.