



Beside Still Waters

A liturgy of healing prayer
with the laying on of hands and anointing,
based on Psalm 23.

GATHERING

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,
to give and to receive the anointing of oil
and the laying on of hands,
and to be sent into the world
as wounded healers and bearers of Christ's love.

HYMN *O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come*



- 1 O Christ, the heal - er, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends.
- 2 From ev - 'ry ail - ment flesh en - dures our bod - ies clam - or to be freed;
- 3 In con - flicts that de - stroy our health we rec - og - nize the world's dis - ease;
- 4 Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your com - mu - ni - ty may find



How can we fail to be re - stored when reached by love that nev - er ends?
yet in our hearts we would con - fess that whole - ness is our deep - est need.
our com - mon life de - clares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?
the whole - ness that, en - rich - ing us, shall reach the whole of hu - man - kind.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: DISTRESS, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, by your goodness and mercy
you guide your flock to still waters and green pastures
where we are restored to abundant life in you,
now and all the days of our lives.

Amen.

Silence.

WORD

*The refrain from "Shepherd me, O God" (ELW 780) on next page is sung
and then used as a refrain following the readings.*

All

Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, be -
yond my fears, from death in - to life.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Psalm 23
 Music: SHEPHERD ME, Marty Haugen
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The Lord is my shepherd,
 I shall not be in want.
 The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures
 and leads me beside still waters.
 You restore my soul, O Lord,
 and guide me along right pathways
 for your name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley
 of the shadow of death,
 I shall fear no evil;
 For you are with me;
 your rod and your staff,
 they comfort me.

Psalm 23:1-4

All

Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, be -
yond my fears, from death in - to life.

You prepare a table before me
 in the presence of my enemies;
 you anoint my head with oil,
 and my cup is running over.
 Surely goodness and mercy
 shall follow me
 all the days of my life,
 and I will dwell
 in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalm 23:5-6

All

Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -
yond my fears, from death in - to life.

Silence.

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, our good shepherd,
you give us new birth in the waters of baptism,
you anoint us with oil,
and you nourish us at your table with heavenly food.
In your goodness and mercy,
dispel the shadows of evil and death,
and lead us along safe paths,
that we may rest securely in your
and dwell in the house of the Lord,
now and forever, for your name's sake.

Amen.

A time of silence is kept as the word dwells richly in those gathered.

INVITATION TO THE LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ANOINTING AND PRAYER AT THE CROSS

A reading from James.

Are any of you suffering? They should pray.
Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise.
Are any among you sick? They should call the elders of the church
and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.
The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up,
and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.
Therefore confess your sins to one another,
and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. *James 5:13-16a*

Those who desire the prayer of faith and the laying on of hands
are invited to stand or kneel.

All who are drawn to be part of this ministry are asked to watch
so that no one comes forward and is left kneeling alone—
rise and stand beside those who kneel.
Place your hand upon the person's head or shoulder.
Hear the words of this prayer,
"Jesus Christ, our savior and shepherd,
fill you with love, mend you with mercy,
and grant you peace."

Those who receive oil upon your forehead in the sign of the cross,
a reminder of the baptismal grace that forgives, frees, and heals us,
hear the assuring words, "You are God's child, now and always."

The Lord is our shepherd, we need nothing more.
Come, you who are filled with anxiety, regret, or fear.
Christ leads you beside still waters.

Come, you who long for reconciliation between peoples and nations.
God has set a table in the presence of our enemies,
where we can feast with them on Christ's mercy.

Come, you who walk in death's dark valley
and you who accompany others along the sorrow road.
God's comfort is yours.

You may come to the cross
to kneel or sit as beside still waters.
In song and prayer,
our bodies, our breath, our hearts, our hands,
and our voices are joined in God.

PRAYER AT THE CROSS

Hymns below are sung softly while people come forward to pray, receive the laying on of hands, and anointing. Sing each hymn three times.

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, consisting of quarter and eighth notes. The accompaniment is a steady bass line of quarter notes. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.
or *The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.*

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943
Music: CHILDREN PRAYING, Ken Medema
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Jesus, Remember Me

Musical notation for the first system of the hymn, including both treble and bass clef staves with lyrics underneath.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Musical notation for the second system of the hymn, including both treble and bass clef staves with lyrics underneath.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Text: Luke 23:42; Taizé Community
Music: REMEMBER ME, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
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When the prayers at the cross, laying on of hands, and anointing have come to a close and the music has ended, silence is kept.

CLOSING PRAYER AND SENDING

Gathering our many prayers into one, let us pray.

We give thanks, O God,
that you have come to heal us,
and have called us to bring your healing to one another.

Fill us with your Spirit,
that we may be faithful to your call
and grateful for your power.

Send us into the world as healers in your name
through Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep.

Amen.

The God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
keep you in goodness and mercy, now and forever.

Amen.

You may remain in silence for prayer.

When you leave, do so quietly.

Christ goes with you.

The room stays quiet and dark until all have finished praying.

Thank you for worshipping with us this evening!

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