

A Healing Service

A welcoming atmosphere is created in the worship space. People should gather together in a comfortable space but not spread out too far. The pastor or a minister welcomes all and introduces the service.

Song "Healer of Our Every Ill," Marty Haugen or any other song of healing

Sign of the Cross

Greeting May the Father of mercies, the God of all consolation, be with you.
R. And with your Spirit.

Presider: We gather to pray for those who struggle with the illness of addiction and all those who are affected by its consequences. In the letter of Saint James, we hear that if anyone is ill, he or she should be brought forth to be prayed over. Because addiction drives people into isolation from others, this may not be possible. Therefore, let us pray on behalf of those affected. Let us pray too for ourselves, that God may soften our hearts and open them to learn about the effects of drugs on the entire person, physically, mentally and spiritually. So, we gather to pray for all those struggling with addiction, for those who love and care for them, for all emergency responders and mental health professionals who minister to them— and for ourselves...

Opening Prayer

Presider: Let us pray:

Merciful God,
your Son showed compassion to all in need.
Open our hearts to those who suffer from addiction.
Strengthen our support for them and their loved ones.
Watch over all of us who come to you in need.
Protect those who minister to those suffering in this crisis:
first responders, hospital personnel,
and mental health professionals.
Empower us here to pray and support
those who are suffering, now and in the days ahead.

Scripture Luke 10:27-37

Reader: The man asked Jesus,
 “And who is my neighbor?”
 Jesus replied,
 “A man fell victim to robbers
 as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho.
 They stripped and beat him and went off
 leaving him half-dead.

A priest happened to be going down that road,
but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side.
Likewise, a Levite came to the place,
and when he saw him, he passed by
on the opposite side.

“But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him
was moved with compassion at the sight.
He approached the victim,
[tended] his wounds and
bandaged them.

Then he lifted him up on his own animal,
took him to an inn and cared for him.

“The next day he took out two silver coins
and give them to the innkeeper with the instruction,
‘Take care of him.

If you spend more than what I have given you,
I shall repay you on my way back.’

“Which of these three, in your opinion,
was a neighbor to the robbers’ victim?”

He answered, “The one who treated him with mercy.”
Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

Psalm Ps 130, Out of the Depths I Cry to You O Lord;
 Ps 103, The Lord is Kind and Merciful; Ps 34, the Lord Hears the Cry
 of the Poor, or another psalm.

Reflection

Reader: The illness of addiction is not unlike the robber in Luke’s Gospel.
 Addiction steals into our lives and takes away that which is most
 valuable to us and leaves us injured and alone.

[This might be a time to reflect on the challenges presented by the
opioid crisis and name some things that the assembly can do in
response. It’s a good time to remind parishioners and others that
addiction is a complex brain disease that requires our compassion and
understanding. It requires too our support of families and those who
minister to those suffering.]

Procession of Light [accompanied by sung music, Taizé, Psalmody, etc.]

Create a place of honor, perhaps with a crucifix where candles may be displayed for the evening. Set a table near the people with candles for those who wish to process. Some suggest using mini votive lights. They may be used for the service and taken home afterwards. Hoffmann's has such a votive candle.

Presider: We light candles to honor Christ's presence among us. We light them to honor and remember loved ones. So, tonight, we light candles for those who have died from overdoses, to pray for those who are struggling with the illness addiction and for families and friends who have lost loved ones or suffered along with them as they struggled. I ask that a representative of each family light a candle and bring it forward to the place of honor as a sign of our prayer and support. Likewise, I invite all of you who wish to remember an individual who has died from or is struggling with drugs, to bring a candle forward to honor them.

Instrumental and/or sung music may be used as appropriate during the procession.

Intercessions

Presider: Let us bring our concerns and needs before our Lord and pray: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For those bound by the chains of addiction, may they find courage and strength from God to take the next step on a journey toward healing. **R.**

For families who have been robbed of their loved one because of addiction, that they may be able to show their love and compassion with faith and patience, we pray: **R.**

For all who minister to those struggling with the impact of the illness of addiction, that they may seek strength, support, and healing in their God, we pray: **R.**

For those who have lost loved ones due to drugs, that they may know that the ties of love that bind us together on earth do not dissolve with death. **R.**

For those who have died, having lost the battle against drugs and addiction, that they may find peace, forgiveness and eternal rest. **R.**

For all of us here, that we may be attentive to those who are weighed down with the burden of addiction, and seek ways to stand by them and their families through prayer, encouragement and assistance, we pray: **R.**

Lord's Prayer

Presider: Gathering our prayers into one, we pray as our savior taught us.
"Our Father..."

Prayer of Healing

Presider: Let us pray.

O God of compassion,
your people are in pain.
Send your Holy Spirit among us
to dispel the fear that accompanies grief.
We cry out to you in our confusion;
comfort us in our affliction.
Give us courage to travel this road of grief and sadness
with our eyes fixed on the salvation
promised us through the death and resurrection
of your Son,
who is Lord forever and ever.
Amen.

Healing Prayer adapted from Prayer Service for Comfort in Time of Disaster;" *Prayer Services for Parish Life*, Jerry Galipeau, 2004, World Library Publications.

Blessing

Closing Song