

Service of Holy Communion

October 18, 2020

Feast of St. Luke, Healing Service

WELCOME

This is a service of Holy Communion. Please have bread/crackers and wine/grape juice ready for when we come to the Eucharist.

PRELUDE

One Voice

"Healing is in Your Hand" Chris Tomlin, D Carson, C & N Nockels, & M Redman

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG *"Love The Lord"*

Verse 1

Love the Lord your God with all your heart

With all your soul with all your mind

And with all your strength

(REPEAT)

Chorus 1

With all your heart with all your soul

With all your mind with all your strength

Love the Lord your God with all your heart
 With all your soul with all your mind
 And with all your strength

Verse 2

I will serve the Lord
 With all my heart with all my soul
 With all my mind and with all my strength
 (REPEAT)

Chorus 2

With all my heart with all my soul
 With all my mind with all my strength
 I will serve the Lord with all my heart
 With all my soul with all my mind
 And with all my strength

Instrumental

I will love You (I will love You)
 I will praise You (I will praise You)
 I will serve You (I will serve You)
 I will trust You Lord (I will trust You)

Chorus 3

With all my heart with all my soul
 With all my mind with all my strength
 (REPEAT)

I will love You Lord with all my heart
 With all my soul with all my mind
 And with all my strength
 (REPEAT 2X)

CCLI Song # 4572938

Lincoln Brewster

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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.

HYMN OF PRAISE *“I Sing Praises”*

Verse 1

I sing praises to Your name O Lord
 Praises to Your name O Lord
 For Your name is great
 And greatly to be praised
 I sing praises to Your name O Lord
 Praises to Your name O Lord
 For Your name is great
 And greatly to be praised

Verse 2

I give glory to Your name O Lord
 Glory to Your name O Lord
 For Your name is great
 And greatly to be praised
 I give glory to Your name O Lord
 Glory to Your name O Lord
 For Your name is great
 And greatly to be praised

CCLI Song # 17061

Terry MacAlmon

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, who inspired your servant Luke the physician to set forth in the Gospel the love and healing power of your Son: Graciously continue in your Church this love and power to heal, to the praise and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE WORD**FIRST READING:** *Sirach 38:1-4,6-10,12-14*

Honor physicians for their services, for the Lord created them;
 for their gift of healing comes from the Most High,
 and they are rewarded by the king.
 The skill of physicians makes them distinguished,
 and in the presence of the great they are admired.
 The Lord created medicines out of the earth,
 and the sensible will not despise them.

And he gave skill to human beings
 that he might be glorified in his marvelous works.
 By them the physician heals and takes away pain;
 the pharmacist makes a mixture from them.
 God's works will never be finished;
 and from him health spreads over all the earth.
 My child, when you are ill, do not delay,
 but pray to the Lord, and he will heal you.
 Give up your faults and direct your hands rightly,
 and cleanse your heart from all sin.
 Then give the physician his place, for the Lord created him;
 do not let him leave you, for you need him.
 There may come a time when recovery lies in the hands of physicians,
 for they too pray to the Lord that he grant them success in diagnosis and in
 healing, for the sake of preserving life.
 The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: *Psalm 147:1-7*

- 1 Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God!
 how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!
- 2 The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; he gathers the exiles of Israel.**
- 3 He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.
- 4 He counts the number of the stars and calls them all by their names.**
- 5 Great is our LORD and mighty in power; there is no limit to his wisdom.
- 6 The LORD lifts up the lowly, but casts the wicked to the ground.**
- 7 Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make music to our God upon the harp.

SECOND READING: *2 Timothy 4:5-13*

As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Do your best to come to me soon, for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry. I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *“Sing Alleluia”*

Sing Alleluia to the Lord. Sing Alleluia to the Lord.
 Sing Alleluia, sing Alleluia, sing Alleluia to the Lord. (*repeat*)

GOSPEL: *Luke 4:14-21*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the fourth chapter

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
 because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.
 He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
 and recovery of sight to the blind,
 to let the oppressed go free,
 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

This morning, in commemoration of St. Luke the physician, we are having a healing service. All of us need healing of some sort. Some in the congregation have had surgeries recently to replace knees or hips – they need to recover from surgery and regain their strength. Some have been sick with various illnesses – cancer or COVID or heart disease; they need God’s Holy Spirit to come and restore their bodies. As for me, I need to be healed from a great, heavy weariness. Maybe you experience that, too, during these days. We might be weary from all the changes in daily life due to the pandemic, or weary from the political campaigns, or weary from worrying about on-going unrest in our nation and the possibility of violence on or after election day. We all need healing: from physical maladies, mental strain, plummeting emotions, and spiritual tiredness.

Our world needs healing, too – the physical earth: soil and air and water, birds and animals and forests. The Western part of the United States has been ravaged and scarred by wildfires that destroyed whole towns, including people’s homes and habitats for wild animals, and that made the thick, smoked-filled air dangerous to breathe. The Gulf Coast is drowning, again, in relentless rain from hurricanes that bring flooding, in muck and mess that cause disease and homelessness. Our society is greatly in need of healing, as our actual disagreements on issues and politics are exploited and aggravated by anyone seeking to make trouble or make money, or both, through invented scandals and distorted reporting on real happenings. Our world is in desperate need of healing.

It was just another day in Nazareth when Jesus showed up in the synagogue to read from scripture and teach. Every Saturday the faithful gathered in the synagogue to hear the word of God read and discuss its meaning. Jesus had been doing that all his life. This day was no different, with Roman soldiers patrolling the streets, local rulers contemplating arbitrary violence against Jews, tax burdens common people could hardly bear, and factions within the community who were suspicious of each other. It was just another Sabbath in Nazareth.

Jesus took the scroll and read a familiar passage from the prophet Isaiah. The words were a promise, a longed-for hope that things would one day be put right. One day there would not be Roman soldiers in the streets, heavy taxes that had to be paid to foreign rulers, subjugation and violence toward certain peoples. God would bring an end to all that. “The Lord has anointed me,” Jesus said, “to bring good news to the poor, release to the captives, sight to the blind, life and liberty to those who’ve been beat-down, God’s favor on us all.” It was a wonderful promise the people hoped would one day come.

Then Jesus said, “Today is the day. Not sometime in the future. Today. All these things are happening right now.

What was it like for the people of Nazareth to hear those words? Did a chill of astonished belief run up their spines? Did the cynical part of their hearts cause them to scoff? What would it be like to hear that, on an ordinary day, and contemplate whether it might be true?

It’s just another Sunday morning in San Antonio, in the United States of America. A few of us are gathered here at the church; the rest of you are at home. Worship proceeds as usual – the liturgy, some songs, a few prayers, scripture readings, and the preacher gets up to preach. She preaches to people who need genuine good news, who need healing. In the gospel reading, Jesus claims to bring the day of the Lord’s favor and all its benefits. It’s a wonderful, heart-warming tale. But what if I told you this is not just a story of long-ago Nazareth, but is reality, is truth, for today?

Today there is release for all who are held captive: those captive to racism, either the racism they inflict or the racism they receive; those held captive to cycles of poverty – work that barely covers living expenses, then an illness that brings a financial crisis, some assistance to get past the crisis, only to lose a job and start the cycle all over again. Jesus is here and you are released from those, from all forms of captivity.

Today the blind can see. In scripture, the “blind” may refer to physical blindness or spiritual blindness. We are plagued by spiritual blindness in our world. We don’t know what to believe, who to trust, or which are the best procedures to follow. We’re supposed to love our neighbor but we’re so exasperated by some of them, it seems unlikely. Now, however, there is sight for the blind, for you and me, everything made clear so that our needless worries and aggravations can fall away, so we’ll see each other as we are: God’s beloved.

Today the year of the Lord’s favor has come. It isn’t waiting until after we have COVID under control, or after the election, or whenever church can resume in a somewhat normal fashion. It isn’t waiting for us to get ourselves together. It has come now. God is not casting us aside, sick of our whining and our hard-heartedness, our deafness to other people’s needs. God is not turning away and leaving us in this mess alone. Jesus is bringing God’s favor to us now, the glow of God’s face that looks on us with compassion, the breadth of God’s love that wipes away our wrongs, the wholeness and new life that God breathes on us through the Spirit.

Of course... it’s just another Sunday, and we’ve been doing this all our lives – coming to worship on Sundays, hearing the gospel read, confessing our faith, eating and drinking the saving body and blood of the Lord. Today is no different from any other Sunday. So why would these ancient sayings be fulfilled today, in our hearing, in our wounded world?

Why not today? Why couldn’t Jesus’ words be true, effective, immediately life-giving on this day as they were that day in Nazareth? We believe Jesus is the Savior. We trust that, in Jesus, we receive new life again and again. We remember how Jesus appeared to the disciples after the crucifixion – a thing that did not seem possible.

We remember how the witness of the disciples grew into the Christian church, how the Church has been reformed over the years, and how the presence of Jesus has enabled us, countless times, to survive loss and illness, abuse and fear. We know these things and can testify to them. So why wouldn’t today be the day when the poor receive good news, the captives are released (we are set free!), and the blind regain their sight (our eyes are opened!), and God’s favor shines on us all?

This isn’t our doing – the healing of bodies and minds, the restoration of communities to neighborliness and cooperation. It is the Lord’s doing. It is being accomplished for us. Maybe we are blind to it, or maybe, by faith, we see these things becoming. Let us imagine God’s good news spreading across the nation, uplifting and renewing people everywhere, until reality catches up with what we already know. Jesus is here, and today all good things are being fulfilled in him.

HYMN OF THE DAY *“Lord, Be Glorified”*

- 1 In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
in my life, Lord, be glorified today.

- 2 In our song, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
in our song, Lord, be glorified today.

- 3 In your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
in your church, Lord, be glorified today.
- 4 In your world, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In your world, Lord, be glorified today.

Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952

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SERVICE OF HEALING

INTRODUCTION

Our Lord Jesus healed many as a sign of the reign of God come near and sent the disciples to continue this work of healing—with prayer, the laying on of hands, and anointing. 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 OF THE PEOPLE

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

Silence

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, **hear us, O God.**

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, **hear us, O God.**

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, **hear us, O God.**

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, **hear us, O God.**

Loving God, mend broken relationships and bring peace to our families, our congregation, this community, and the world. In your great mercy, **hear us, O God.**

God of all, hear the individual prayers of your people...

In your great mercy, **hear us, O God.**

Eternal God, we thank you for all the faithful departed. Heal the pain of all who grieve.
In your great mercy, **hear us, O God.**

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.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

Sisters and brothers, I invite you to receive a sign of healing and wholeness in the name of the triune God.

Each of you, by name, in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, be strengthened and filled with God's grace, that you may know the healing power of the Spirit.

Amen.

You may now bless one another in your households by saying "**God bless you with healing in Jesus' name**" or similar words.

Let us pray. Living God, through these prayers for wholeness, grant comfort in suffering to all who need healing. When they are afraid, give them courage; when afflicted, give them patience; when dejected, give them hope; and when alone, assure them of the support of your holy people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

Almighty God, who is a strong tower to all, to whom all things in heaven and on earth bow and obey, be now and evermore your sure defense, and help you to know that the name given to us for health and salvation is the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. **Amen.**

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

You have set before us these gifts of your good creation.

Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

(Please have the bread and wine/juice ready for Holy Communion)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE FOR HEALING SERVICE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ: our Good Samaritan, who tends the wounds of body and spirit with the oil of consolation and the wine of hope; the Sun of righteousness, who raises us to life on his healing wings. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

God of creation, God of resurrection and new life: all that lives and breathes belongs to you. In the beginning you called creation good: the skies, land, and seas; the plants and trees; the birds and animals; and humankind which you made in your own image. Your love is boundless. It embraces us and heals our every ill. We know your love most deeply in your Son, Jesus, who lived to teach and guide us, who died our death for us, and whom you raised so that we, too, might live a new life. We celebrate his life, death, and resurrection, as we remember...

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet table where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

Take the bread and eat, this is the body of Christ, given for you. *(please consume the bread)*

Take the cup and drink, this is the blood of Christ, shed for you. *(please drink from the cup)*

Blessing after Communion

The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Merciful God, constant source of all healing, we give you thanks for all your gifts of strength and life, and above all we thank you for the gift of your Son, through whom we have health and salvation. As we wait for that day when there will be no more pain, help us by your Holy Spirit to be assured of your power in our lives and to trust in your eternal love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I am taking a week of continuing education starting on Monday. I'll be away at Camp Chrysalis in Kerrville for a solitary retreat. I will be in worship next Sunday, Reformation Sunday, and Pastor Tom Robison will be giving the sermon.

The budget committee meets next Thursday, October 29, 4:30 in the church offices – please wear a mask.

Build your Ofrenda for All Saints Sunday – Nov. 1. Take picture and send it to Courtney at church office via email or text.

We are looking for folks to write up an Advent or Christmas memory to share in the December Newsletter. Those, and the pictures of your ofrendas, need to be sent to Courtney no later than Monday, November 9.

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.

CLOSING HYMN

“Just A Little Talk with Jesus”

One Voice & John Braulick

Verse 1

I once was lost in sin
 But Jesus took me in
 And then a little light
 From heaven filled my soul
 It bathed my heart in love
 And wrote my name above
 And just a little talk with Jesus
 Made me whole

Chorus

Now let us have a little talk with Jesus
 Let us tell Him all about our troubles
 He will hear our faintest cry
 And He will answer by and by
 Now when you feel a little pray'r wheel turning
 And you know a little fire is burning
 You will find a little talk with Jesus
 Makes it right (it makes it right)

Verse 3

I may have doubts and fears
 My eyes be filled with tears
 But Jesus is a friend
 Who watches day and night
 I go to Him in pray'r
 He knows my ev'ry care
 And just a little talk with Jesus
 Makes it right

Chorus

CCLI Song # 13986

Cleavant Derricks

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DISMISSAL

Go about your day in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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