



Wednesday March 12th, 2025

Lent Week 1: Healer

INVOCATION:

P We gather together as friends in the healing presence of the Triune God. We gather together in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Be gracious to me, O Lord,

C For I am languishing; heal me, O Lord, for my bones are troubled. (Psalm 6:2)

P O Lord my God, I cried to you for help,

C And you have healed me. (Psalm 30:2)

P He sent out his word and healed them,

C And delivered them from their destruction. (Psalm 107:20)

P Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God;

C For it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting. (Psalm 147:1)

P He heals the brokenhearted

C And binds up their wounds. (Psalm 147:3)

OPENING HYMN LSB 435 Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain

1 Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain,
Sinners, ruined by the fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain
Flows for you, for me, for all,
In a full, perpetual tide,
Opened when our Savior died.

2 Come in poverty and meanness,
Come defiled, without, within;
From infection and uncleanness,
From the leprosy of sin,
Wash your robes and make them white;
Ye shall walk with God in light.

3 Come in sorrow and contrition,
Wounded, impotent, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission,
Here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore;
They that drink shall thirst no more.

4 They that drink shall live forever;
'Tis a soul-renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never
Break His covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died,
Sealed when He was glorified.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P** Be gracious to us, O Lord, hear our confession and heal our iniquity.
- C** My thoughts have veered away from your paths of righteousness.
- P** My ways have departed from your ways.
- C** My seeking to gain control has made me a slave to sin.
- P** My desires have brought disease into my heart and life.
- C** My sin makes me waste away from within.
- P** My heart cries out for forgiveness and healing.
- C** Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!
(Please silently reflect on the fact that Jesus heals us from the rot and disease of sin.)
- P** Your healer, Christ Jesus, has good news for you! The healing mercy of Jesus is stronger than the disease of sin. Your Savior, Servant, Friend brings healing to you through the cross and the empty tomb. Jesus forgives you of all your sins and he applies a healing balm to your heart, soul and all of your life. Because of your friend Jesus, you are forgiven. Amen.
- C** What a friend we have in Jesus.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Almighty and everlasting God, you created us for life and flourishing, not for death and disease. Turn our hearts from all that is contrary to you, and bring us back to your healing ways. Let us seek you and the eternal healing that you alone provide. Let us desire friendship with you so that we are healed by love. We pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.. **C** Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Malachi 4:1-3

¹“For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ²But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. ³And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts.

EPISTLE READING 1 Peter 2:23-25

²³When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

GOSPEL READING Matthew 8:14-17

¹⁴And when Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever. ¹⁵He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve him. ¹⁶That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. ¹⁷This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: “He took our illnesses and bore our diseases.”

SERMON HYMN LSB 763 When Peace, like a River

1 When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;
When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul. *Refrain*

ref It is well (It is well) with my soul,
(with my soul), It is well, it is well with my soul.

2 Though Satan should buffet,
though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estat
And hath shed His own blood for my soul. *Refrain*

3 He lives—oh,
the bliss of this glorious thought;
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
O my soul! *Refrain*

4 And, Lord, haste the day when our faith
shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall
descend; Even so it is well with my soul.
Refrain Text: Public domain

SERMON “Healer” *Matthew 8:14-17*

PRAYERS

P There are hurts everywhere. This world hurts. And we hurt. And so we pray that the healing hands of Jesus would be placed upon us and all our hurts. Jesus, in your great love, place your healing hands on us. You know where it hurts—come and bring healing, Jesus.

C **Lord, hear our prayer.**

P Heal the hurts festering in our hearts and souls so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

C **Lord, hear our prayer.**

P Heal the hurts of this world as you bring peace to war-torn places, protection to innocent lives and integrity to leaders and rulers.

C **Lord, hear our prayer.**

P Heal the hurts of failing bodies and aching bones, work through the hands and feet of medical practitioners and draw near to all in their times of illness and physical hurt.

C **Lord, hear our prayer.**

P Heal the pain of loneliness and despair, anxiety and fear.

C **Lord, hear our prayer.**

P Heal any strife that threatens to break apart your church, and replace it with friendship and unity.

C **Lord, hear our prayer.**

P Heal us from all ungodly apathy or indifference so that we can be passionate for your kingdom work.

C **Lord, hear our prayer.**

P Jesus, heal us by means of your body and blood.

C **Jesus, place your healing hands on all our hurts. Amen.**

COMMUNION

LORD'S PRAYER

C 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.

BENEDICTION

P Go now into this world of hurts knowing what a healer you have in Jesus! May the healing power of Jesus bless you and keep you; may the healings hands of Jesus be placed upon you in faith and give you peace. Amen.

C **What a friend we have in Jesus!**

CLOSING HYMN LSB 421 Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing

- 1 Jesus, grant that balm and healing
 In Your holy wounds I find,
Ev'ry hour that I am feeling
 Pains of body and of mind.
Should some evil thought within
Tempt my treach'rous heart to sin,
 Show the peril, and from sinning
 Keep me from its first beginning.
- 2 Should some lust or sharp temptation
 Fascinate my sinful mind,
Draw me to Your cross and passion,
 And new courage I shall find.
Or should Satan press me hard,
Let me then be on my guard,
 Saying, "Christ for me was wounded," That the tempter flee confounded.
- 3 If the world my heart entices
 With the broad and easy road,
With seductive, sinful vices,
 Let me weigh the awful load
You were willing to endure.
Help me flee all thoughts impure
 And to master each temptation, Calm in prayer and meditation.
- 4 Ev'ry wound that pains or grieves me
 By Your wounds, Lord, is made whole;
When I'm faint, Your cross revives me,
 Granting new life to my soul.
Yes, Your comfort renders sweet
Ev'ry bitter cup I meet;
 For Your all-atoning passion
Has procured my soul's salvation. *Text: Public domain*