

**Wednesday of Holy Week  
Healing Service  
March 24, 2024**

PRELUDE: An Cailin Fionn - Cheryl Miller, Flute, June Condra, Piano

**INTRODUCTION**

*Welcome to our Holy Wednesday Healing Service.*

*We ask that in preparation that you have a candle and lighter in front of you for a candle lighting ceremony.*

*Also, if you are so inclined, to have pencil and paper (crayons, colored pencils) to write down thoughts, prayers, doodles or whatever that can be useful to you.*

*Create your space to enter this worship.*

Simple, intentional acts such as setting aside your phone, making a cup of tea, may help center yourself in this moment.

*Pay attention to your body, what you are feeling, especially voices of judgement, cynicism and fear that may limit you from being open to what God is birthing new.*

*Sit comfortably.*

*Take several deep breaths to center yourself.*

*Pay attention to your surroundings.*

*Pay attention to your breath.*

**CANDLE LIGHTING**

As we center ourselves this night, let us now light our candle of witness. This flame will light our way this night and bear witness to God's love poured out on us. (light your candle) My the warmth and flicker of light be for you a sign of peace.

**OPENING SONG: Thy Holy Wings (ELW 613)**

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|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Thy holy wings, O Savior,<br>spread gently over me,<br>and let me rest securely<br>through good and ill in thee.<br>Oh, be my strength and portion,<br>my rock and hiding place,<br>and let my ev'ry moment<br>be lived within thy grace. |   | Oh, close thy wings around me<br>and keep me safely there,<br>for I am but a newborn<br>and need thy tender care.   |
| 2 | Oh, let me nestle near thee,<br>within thy downy breast<br>where I will find sweet comfort<br>and peace within thy nest.  | 3 | Oh, wash me in the waters<br>of Noah's cleansing flood.<br>Give me a willing spirit,<br>a heart both clean and good.<br>Oh, take into thy keeping<br>thy children great and small,<br>and while we sweetly slumber,<br>enfold us one and all. |

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

God in heaven, for Jesus' sake, send your Holy Spirit upon your servants gathered this evening; drive away all sickness of body and spirit; make whole that which is broken; deliver us from the power of evil; and preserve us in true faith, to share in the power of Christ's resurrection and to serve you with all the saints now and evermore.  
**Amen.**

## **READINGS**

### **Psalm 31 (A Paraphrase)**

In You, Lord, I take refuge  
Don't let me be put to shame;  
Deliver me in Your righteousness  
Hear my cry-rescue me  
be my refuge-a strong fortress  
save me  
You are my rock  
lead me guide me  
keep me free from the traps set for me  
You are my refuge  
my protection  
I put my spirit  
my soul  
into Your hands  
Deliver me  
I am so afraid...and alone...  
My mind is consumed with distress...  
My body and soul is weakened by grief and sorrow  
O God, be merciful to me I am forgotten...  
I have become broken pottery  
But I trust you God  
You are my Creator and Deliverer  
Save me  
Shine Your light on me  
Save me through Your love  
God...can you hear my cry?  
I trust in You, Lord  
You are my God  
You are my refuge  
I will find shelter in your presence  
You are my safe dwelling place  
Hear my cry for mercy God  
I need your help  
I trust in your faithfulness God  
I love you...  
And my hope is in You

*Silence*

**JOHN 15:9-17**

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

*Silence*

**REFLECTION SONG: *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling***

1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,  
calling for you and for me.  
See, on the portals he's waiting and  
watching,  
watching for you and for me.

2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,  
pleading for you and for me?  
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,  
mercies for you and for me? *Refrain*

*Refrain*

"Come home, (Come home,)  
come home! (come home!)  
You who are weary, come home."  
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,  
calling, "O sinner, come home!"

3 Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised,  
promised for you and for me!  
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,  
pardon for you and for me. *Refrain*

**PRAYER OF INTERCESSION:** *During this prayer, you are encouraged to offer your own prayers either silently or to write or draw them out.*

**I Rest In You**

*A psalm 4 prayer by Silvia Purdie*

I rest in you, O God.  
I am in your safe keeping,  
body and soul  
held in peace.

My heart cries out to you, my God.  
All that upsets me you see.

All that disturbs me you understand.  
Only here in your presence  
am I fully known.  
I am wrapped in grace.

I rest in you, O God.  
I am in your safe keeping,  
body and soul  
held in peace.

I try to relax but anger rattles me  
I try to relax but my failings niggle at me.  
Be still, be silent.  
Put your trust in the Lord.

I rest in you, O God.  
I am in your safe keeping,  
body and soul  
held in peace.

In the stillness the light of your face shines.  
My heart turns to thankfulness and is glad.  
I have more than enough.  
You, Lord, are more than enough.  
I lie down to sleep, safe and sound.

I rest in you, O God.  
I am in your safe keeping,  
body and soul  
held in peace.

Be still and rest.

You are held in peace.

#### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Let us pray.

Loving God, our source and our final home, we give you thanks for the gifts of life on earth, for our human bodies and all you have created. In your great mercy,  
**hear us, O God.**

Merciful God, by the wounds of your Son we are healed. Bring your saving health to all people. In your great mercy,  
**hear us, O God.**

Holy God, your Spirit came upon us in the waters of baptism and brought us into the communion of saints. Renew in us the grace of baptism, by which we share in Christ's death and resurrection. In your great mercy,  
**hear us, O God.**

Mighty God, your Son Jesus brought healing and wholeness to all. Bring your healing presence now to all who are sick or in pain. Grant hope to all who are discouraged or in despair. In your great mercy,  
**hear us, O God.**

Compassionate God, the strength of those who suffer, bring hope and peace to all who are in mental, physical, or spiritual distress. In your great mercy,  
**hear us, O God.**

Almighty God, source of human knowledge, give skill, wisdom, and compassion to all who provide medical care. In your great mercy,  
**hear us, O God.**

Loving God, our creator and redeemer, give gentleness and courage to family members, friends, and caregivers of those who suffer. In your great mercy,  
**hear us, O God.**

God of great and abundant mercy, with your presence sustain all for whom we pray. Drive away their suffering, give them firm hope, and strengthen their trust in you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father in heaven,  
    hallowed be your name,  
    your kingdom come,  
    your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
    as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
    and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
    and the glory are yours,  
    now and forever. Amen.

### **A HEALING BLESSING**

### **SENDING SONG: Just A Closer Walk With Thee (ELW 697)**

#### *Refrain*

Just a closer walk with thee,  
grant it, Jesus, is my plea;  
daily walking close to thee,  
let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

1 I am weak but thou art strong:  
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;

I'll be satisfied as long  
as I walk, let me walk close to thee. *Refrain*

2 Through this world of toil and snares,  
if I falter, Lord, who cares?  
Who with me my burden shares?  
None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. *Refrain*

3 When my feeble life is o'er,  
time for me will be no more;  
guide me gently, safely o'er  
to thy kingdom shore, to thy shore. *Refrain*

#### **FINAL BLESSING**

Christ Jesus dwell in our hearts through faith, as we are being rooted and grounded in love, strengthened by the Spirit, and filled with all the fullness of God.

**Amen.**