SAMPLE LITURGY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK AND THOSE WHO CARE FOR THEM

- From her earliest days, the Church has been committed to intercede on behalf of those who are ill and suffering in any way. We certainly pray for those who struggle with physical illnesses, but there are others as well who need our prayers. They include those who struggle with emotional illness, with various forms of addiction, with the effects of old age, and with various physical and mental disabilities. All these struggling brothers and sisters are loved by God and loved by the Church. Our prayer for them expresses that love.
- This liturgy may be led by a priest, deacon or trained lay minister.
- This Sample Liturgy is given as an example and may be modified to meet the needs of the parish and the gathered community.
- Use a full complement of liturgical ministries: music ministers, lectors, greeters, ushers, servers, etc.
- Other prayer texts, litanies, etc., can be taken from Pastoral Care of the Sick.

Gathering Song (Choose an appropriate song from the parish’s repertoire that speaks of service, or that speaks of care for the sick.)

Greeting/sign of the Cross

Presider: In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (The Presider may offer words of welcome or of introduction to those who have gathered. Be sure to mention that in this liturgy we are not only praying for those who are sick but also for health care workers: doctors, nurses, technicians, aids, emergency medical personnel, home health care workers, and family members caring for loved ones.)

Opening Prayer

Presider: Brothers and sisters
When one member suffers in the Body of Christ, which is the Church, all members suffer with that one.
We gather this evening to pray for our brothers and sisters who suffer, that God will bless them with his healing presence.
We also pray for those who minister to the sick, that the Lord will strengthen and nourish them in their service.

Let us pray for guidance and strength....
O God,
the source of all health,
your Son bore our weakness
and carried our sorrow.
He healed the sick,
and sent his disciples to care for those in need.

Fill our hearts with your love
and grant us courage and compassion
as we continue your mission
to serve the sick, the poor,
and all your children in need.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Liturgy of the Word**

*Readings may be chosen from Pastoral Care of the Sick, or may be taken from the Lectionary, nos. 790 – 795. Choose an Old Testament reading, a New Testament reading (consider especially St. Paul’s letters) and a Gospel.*

*Preaching and the use of silence is most encouraged in this opportunity of praying for the sick and those who care for them.*

**Litany of Christ the Healer**

*Cantor:* Lord Jesus, Son of David and Son of God
*All:* Lord have Mercy

*Cantor:* Lord Jesus, who bore our griefs and carried our sorrows
*All:* Lord have Mercy

*Cantor:* Lord Jesus, who went about preaching the Good News
and curing all kinds of disease and sickness
*All:* Lord have mercy

*Cantor:* Lord Jesus, who raised to life the daughter of Jairus
and the only son of the widow of Naim
*All:* Lord have mercy

*Cantor:* Lord Jesus, who cured Simon Peter’s mother-in-law
of a fever and the woman suffering from hemorrhages.
*All:* Lord have Mercy
Cantor: Lord Jesus, who delivered the Gadarene demonics and the tormented daughter of the Canaanite woman.
All: Lord have mercy

Cantor: Lord Jesus, who cured the centurion’s paralyzed servant and the epileptic boy who could not speak
All: Lord have mercy

Cantor: Lord Jesus, who restored the sight of Bartimaeus, the blind beggar of Jericho and who purified many lepers
All: Lord have mercy

Cantor: Lord Jesus, who cured the man with the withered hands, and who made cripples whole again
All: Lord have mercy

Cantor: Lord Jesus, who ordered your disciples to cast out demons in your name
All: Lord have mercy

Cantor: Lord Jesus, who commanded your disciples to lay hands on the sick and anoint them with oil
All: Lord have mercy

Cantor: Lord Jesus, who calls us by name to serve the sick
All: Lord have mercy

Cantor: Lord Jesus, who hears the prayers of the sick
All: Lord have mercy

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Presider:** Let us gather all of our prayers and concern, our joys and our sorrows, and let us offer them in the prayer that Jesus taught us....
Our Father....

**Concluding rite**
Presider

Gracious and merciful Father,

Bless all our brothers and sisters called to serve the sick
give them wisdom, patience, and compassion
that they may speak to soothe and touch to heal in the
power of the Holy Spirit.

Be with all those who suffer in mind, body or spirit.
Strengthen them with your presence and grant them
peace and comfort.

Through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the
unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.
Amen.

Presider: Before we depart this evening let us offer each other
a sign of peace.

Closing Song