

*Prayers for health
and the health service:
resources for St Luke's tide, 2017*



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These resources are gathered here together in one place for ease of use. They are organised according to the normal order for celebrating the Eucharist, to help orientate you, but only three of them are specifically for the celebration of the Eucharist.

Greeting

We meet in the presence of God

**who knows our needs,
hears our cries,
feels our pain,
and heals our wounds.**

From New Patterns for Worship

Prayers of Penitence

These Kyrie confessions are particularly appropriate

Friend of sinners, you bring hope in our despair.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Healer of the sick, you give strength in our weakness.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Destroyer of evil, you bring life in our dying.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

From New Patterns for Worship

Lord Jesus, you came as the good physician
to those in need of a doctor.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

You underwent the labours of the cross,
that you might bring the new creation to birth.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You give yourself to your people
the true medicine of immortality.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Collect of St Luke

Almighty God,
you called Luke the physician,
whose praise is in the gospel,
to be an evangelist and physician of the soul:
by the grace of the Spirit
and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel,
give your Church the same love and power to heal;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

From Common Worship: Festivals

Readings

The main readings set for St Luke's Day are:

Isaiah 35.3-6

Psalm 147.1-7

2 Timothy 4.5-17

Luke 10.1-9

Other readings particularly appropriate for prayers for the health service are:

Sirach 38:1-14

Luke 4:14-19

Prayers – A blessing for the health service

Creator God,
who knits each person together in their mother's womb:
it is you who reveal knowledge to scientists and doctors.
We thank you for the heritage of medical breakthrough,
expertise and welfare we enjoy in our nation,
freely available to us because of your revelation,
and the faithfulness of previous generations.
Renew thanksgiving in our hearts for what we have received
because of others' work and sacrifice.

Healer of nations,
you provide insight to all who seek you, and defend those in need.
We thank you for the gift of health services in our nation,
freely available to everyone no matter their background, income level or need.
Give your wisdom to our government, health professionals,
and advisers as they seek the right reforms.

Bless our health service to thrive, to prosper, and to heal.
Bless our doctors and nurses to care, to excel, and to bring healing.
Bless our nation to understand, thank, and honour
those who seek to bring us health.

For everything that is good comes from you. **Amen.**

Based on a prayer from www.thesanctuarycentre.org/whereworldandworshipmeet

Prayers – Praying for a reform of the care system:

God our Father, Provider and Sustainer,
we lift to you a care system in crisis.
You ask us to love one another,
but we've sat back and let a failing system take our place.
You call us to protect the vulnerable and the poor,
but we've stood by and watched it ignore those most in need.
You teach us to respect the wisdom of older people,
but we've allowed it to strip their dignity.
Father, forgive us.

We stand now to ask for your help –
for those who are hurting, lonely, frightened or anxious;

for those in need of care.

We pray for a new system that puts people first,
and provides care simply and easily to those who need it.

We pray for a fair and straightforward system
which doesn't discriminate by location,
or favour only those who can understand its complexity.

Hear our prayer, and the cry of those in need. **Amen.**

Based on a prayer from www.thesanctuarycentre.org/whereworldandworshipmeet

Prayers – For the Health Service

O God, we thank you for our healthcare systems and those who work in them. We pray for healthcare workers known to us that through their love and compassion, those who are vulnerable and needy might come to know healing and peace in their lives. We pray for those who have to make difficult decisions about resources or treatments that they will do so with care and integrity. Lord, continue your ministry of healing in the lives of those who are broken, vulnerable and in need. We pray this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

From The Churches and Industry Group, Birmingham (<http://www.cigb.org.uk/>)

Prayers – A Prayer for Carers, Nurses and Doctors

Lord Jesus, who healed the sick and gave them new life,
be with doctors, nurses and carers, as they act as agents of your healing touch.
In desperate times, keep them strong yet loving;
and when their work is done,
be with them in their weariness and in their tears. **Amen.**

(from Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals Chaplaincy, by Althea Hayton – adapted)

Prayers – Responsive Intercessions

Liberating God,
you call your church to the service of your Son,
in bringing good news to the poor,
health to the sick, and reconciliation to the sinful.
Hear our prayers especially today for all who offer chaplaincy in the Health Service,
that they may support the stressed, comfort the suffering,
and speak up for those whose voices are unheard.
Lord, in your mercy ...

Giver of Wisdom,
pour out your gifts on the decision makers of our society,
and especially on the politicians, civil servants and managers of the health service.
May they be imaginative in their thinking, creative in their planning,
and compassionate in their administration and care,
nurturing the talents and well-being of NHS staff,
and serving the needs of NHS patients.
Lord, in your mercy ...

Lover of humanity,
you call your people to be their brother's and sister's keepers.
Hear us as we pray for our local hospital(s), care homes and community services.
We give you thanks for all who serve in them.
Help those who can to take responsibility for their own and their neighbour's needs,
and bless all who harness the good will and help of volunteers.
Lord, in your mercy ...

Good Physician,
we thank you for all whom you bless with your gifts
of compassion, knowledge and healing skills,
especially the doctors, nurses, therapists, and support staff of the health service.
Be with them in all that they do,
that they may be your channels of healing
to those who suffer, in body, mind and spirit,
and themselves find strength, support and encouragement from those they serve.
Lord, in your mercy ...

Compassionate God,
we hold before you all those in need of healing, comfort and encouragement,
especially those who have asked for our prayers ...
calm the anxious mind, bring balm to the depressed spirit,
and strengthen the weakened body,
that all who suffer in body mind and spirit,
may know your healing presence surrounding and holding them.
Lord, in your mercy ...

Living God,
teach us to know and accept the limitations of our mortality,
that we do not burden others with unreasonable expectations,
but live content with the many gifts we have received,

and come at last to greet sister death
as the companion who leads us into your greater life
through him who died for us that we might live with you.
Merciful Father ...

Eucharist – Prayer over the Gifts

Good shepherd of your people,
you prepare a table at which all may feast,
and the cup of your kindness overflows:
by this eucharist we celebrate before you,
may we learn to share more generously
in your ministry of healing and compassion;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Eucharist – Proper Preface

It is indeed right and good
that we should give you praise, thanks and glory,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
He is the promise of justice and hope,
putting the powerful in their place
and lifting up the lowly.
He came as light and life
to those who sat in darkness
and the shadow of death,
your revelation to the nations
and glory for your people Israel.
He went about healing and doing good,
and with his death accomplished the world's salvation.
He sends the Spirit on his people,
that they too may bring good news to the poor,
healing the sick, giving sight to the blind,
and proclaiming the good news of life and joy,
that all creation might hear and rejoice,
as with angels and archangels,
and all the company of heaven, we sing ...

based on themes from St Luke's Gospel

Eucharist – Prayer after Communion

God of compassion,
in this Eucharist you have renewed our vision
of a world made whole.
Renewed by your Spirit,
may we seek the well-being of all creation,
and the good flourishing of humankind,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing / Ending

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honour everyone;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
(and the blessing ...)

Traditional, based on 1 Thessalonians 5:13-22