

Prayer for Cleansing and Healing

Salutation

Introduction *(the pastor teaches the theology and practice of lament and intercession before God, outlining the function of each component in the rite)*

Word of God

Versicles

O Lord, open my lips

And my mouth shall show forth your praise.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit.

A broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being

And You teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

Psalmody (Psalm 142)

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

With my voice I cry out to the LORD; with my voice I plead for mercy to the LORD.

² I pour out my complaint before him; I tell my trouble before him. ³ When my spirit faints within me, you know my way! In the path where I walk they have hidden a trap for me. ⁴ Look to the right and see: there is none who takes notice of me; no refuge remains to me; no one cares for my soul. ⁵ I cry to you, O LORD; I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living." ⁶ Attend to my cry, for I am brought very low! Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me! ⁷ Bring me out of prison, that I may give thanks to your name! The righteous will surround me, for you will deal bountifully with me.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Prayer

(Note: Pastors need to guard against ritual abuse by foisting a prescribed ritual upon suffering people without preparing them in advance. Prior to using this rite, the pastor will teach the abuse victim by exploring together several of the psalms of lament, as well as reviewing the entire rite in advance. At this point in the rite the pastor will need to lead the victim, gently inviting him/her to speak about the trouble/hurt/anger by introducing each element of the following prayer with his (the pastor's) own intercessory prayer)

1. Description of the trouble or hurt in a complaint addressed to the LORD.
 - a. Identification of the source of the trouble.
 - b. Complaint about the LORD's indifference or inactivity.

2. Prayer
 - a. Surrender of right for revenge
 - b. Forgiveness of those who caused the hurt.
 - c. Prayer for the LORD's blessing/help for the righteous.
 - d. Petition for deliverance.

Confession and Absolution *(if desired, and only after proper preparation – see note above)*

Pastor, please hear my confession.

Speak on.

I have....

I have not...

Forgive me for the sake of my Lord Jesus Christ who loves me and died for me on the cross for the forgiveness of my sins.

Intercessory Prayer

Psalmody (Psalm 27)

As a father pities his children,

So the LORD pities those who fear him.

Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints,

and give thanks to his holy name.

For his anger is but for a moment,

and his favor is for a lifetime.

Weeping may tarry for the night,

but joy comes with the morning.

As a father pities his children,

So the LORD pities those who fear him.

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? ² When evildoers assail me, uttering slanders against me, my adversaries and foes, they shall stumble and fall. ³ Though a host encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident. ⁴ One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple. ⁵ For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent, he will set me high upon a rock. ⁶ And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies round about me; and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD. ⁷ Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me! ⁸ Thou hast said, "Seek ye my face." My heart says to thee, "Thy face, LORD, do I seek." ⁹ Hide not thy face from me. Turn not thy servant away in anger, thou who hast been my help. Cast me not off, forsake me not, O God of my salvation! ¹⁰ For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the LORD will take me up. ¹¹ Teach me thy way, O LORD; and lead me on a level path because of my enemies. ¹² Give me not up to the will of my adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence. ¹³ I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living! ¹⁴ Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; yea, wait for the LORD!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen.

As a father pities his children,

So the LORD pities those who fear him.

Blessing