

ORDER FOR THE BLESSING OF A PERSON SUFFERING FROM ADDICTION OR FROM SUBSTANCE ABUSE

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Gathering Song

e.g., "Healing River of the Spirit"

Greeting

Presider: In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Presider: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Presider: Brothers and sisters, God created the world and all things in it and entrusted them into our hands that we might use them for our good and for the building up of the Church and human society. Today we pray for those who struggle with addiction, that God may strengthen them in their weakness and restore them to the freedom of God's children. We pray also for ourselves that we may encourage and support all who are in need.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

2 Cor. 4:6-9

Reader: A reading from the second letter of Saint Paul

to the Corinthians

For God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to bring to light the knowledge of the glory of God on the face of Jesus Christ.

But we hold this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing power may be of God and not from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 121

Reader: Our help is from the Lord who made heaven and earth.

All: Our help is from the Lord who made heaven and earth.

**Reader: I lift up my eyes toward the mountains;
whence shall help come to me?
My help is from the Lord
who made heaven and earth.**

All: Our help is from the Lord who made heaven and earth.

**Reader: May he not suffer your foot to slip;
may he slumber not who guards you:
Indeed he neither slumbers nor sleeps,
the guardian of Israel.**

All: Our help is from the Lord who made heaven and earth.

Reader: **The Lord is your guardian; the Lord is your shade;
he is beside you at your right hand.
The sun shall not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

All: **Our help is from the Lord who made heaven and earth.**

Reader: **The Lord will guard you from all evil;
he will guard your life.
The Lord will guard your coming and your going,
both now and forever.**

All: **Our help is from the Lord who made heaven and earth.**

INTERCESSIONS

Presider: **Our God gives us life and constantly calls us to new life; let
us pray to God with confidence.**

Reader: **Our response is: "Lord, hear our prayer."**

Reader: **For those who struggle with addiction, that God may be
their strength and support, we pray,**

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: **For all who are bound by the chains of addiction or
substance abuse, that we encourage and assist them in their
struggle, we pray,**

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: For their families and friends, that with faith and patience they show them their love, we pray,

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For all first responders and caregivers, that they may trust in the mercy of God through whom all things are possible, we pray,

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For the Church, that it may always be attentive to those in need, we pray,

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Presider: Let us pray to our merciful God as Jesus taught us:

All: Our Father...

PRAYER OF BLESSING

Presider: God of mercy, we bless you
in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ,
who ministered to all who came to him.
Give your strength to your servants,
bound by the chains of addiction.
Enfold them in your love
and restore them to the freedom of God's children.

Lord,
look with compassion on all those
who have lost their health and freedom.
Restore to them the assurance of your unfailing mercy,

and strengthen them in the work of recovery.

**To those who care for them,
grant patient understanding and a love that perseveres.**

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

CONCLUDING RITE

**Presider: And may almighty God bless you
the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.**

All: Amen.

Presider: Go in peace.

All: Thanks be to God.

Closing Song

e.g., "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"