

*The Recovery Commission offers this resource to all parishes in the diocese.  
Please customize it to fit the culture and traditions of your congregation.*

### **An Introduction to Recovery Sunday**

Today, we join with congregations across the Episcopal Diocese of Texas and throughout the wider Church in observing Recovery Sunday - a day set aside to lift up all those who live with the struggle of addiction, and all those who walk with them on the journey toward healing and wholeness.

In the Episcopal Church, we affirm that God's grace meets us not in perfection but in our places of need. Addiction, in all its forms, touches countless lives - across every line of age, race, class, and background. Yet even in the darkest valleys, we are never alone. Recovery is possible. Hope is real. And healing is holy work.

Today we honor the courageous path of those in recovery. We remember those still suffering. We give thanks for the wisdom of the 12 Steps, which have helped so many rediscover a loving, liberating, and life-giving God. And we recommit ourselves as a church to be a place of radical welcome, support, and grace - for all people, in all seasons of life.

May this time of worship be a reminder that nothing - not even our deepest wounds - can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Let us pray, sing, and come to the table together, trusting in the One who heals, restores, and makes all things new.

### **Prelude**

### **THE WORD OF GOD**

*The people's parts are in **bold** throughout.*

### **Opening Hymn or Prayer**

### **The Opening Acclamation**

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**People:** ***And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.***

### **An Introduction to the Twelve Steps**

*The Twelve Steps of recovery are one way that many have found helpful in recovering from addiction. They are also helpful ways of life to seek healing, even without a problem with*

*addiction. While they are not the Gospel, they do follow well the teaching of Jesus. The Twelve Steps as presented in this service have been adapted from the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous to be steps of recovery from anything in life.*

*Celebrant* Without help, it is too much for us. But there is One who has all power. That one is God. May you find God now. Half measures availed us nothing. We stood at the turning point. We asked God's protection and care with complete abandon. These are the steps we took, which are suggested as a process of recovery.

**Step 1: We admit we are powerless over others, over our sins, over our addictions, over our past traumas; that our lives have become unmanageable.**

**Step 2: We come to believe that a Power greater than ourselves can restore us to sanity, to peace, to healing, to love, and to wholeheartedness.**

### **The Prayer Attributed to Saint Francis**

*Celebrant:* Let us now come before our Creator with gratitude for all we have been so freely given in our recovery and say together the Prayer of our brother Francis:

*Celebrant:* Lord, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred,

**People: We may bring love;**

*Celebrant:* That where there is wrong,

**People: We may bring the spirit of forgiveness;**

*Celebrant:* That where there is discord,

**People: We may bring harmony;**

*Celebrant:* That where there is error,

**People: We may bring truth;**

*Celebrant:* That where there is doubt,

**People: We may bring faith;**

*Celebrant:* That where there is despair,

**People: We may bring hope;**

*Celebrant:* That where there are shadows,

**People: We may bring light;**

*Celebrant:* That where there is sadness,

**People: We may bring joy.**

*Celebrant:* Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; May we seek rather to comfort, than to be comforted; to be understood, as to understand;

**People: To be loved as to love.**

Celebrant: For it is in giving that we receive;

**People: It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;**

Celebrant: And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

**People: Amen.**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

### **Collect of the Day**

- **Collect Appointed for the Day**
- **Collect for Victims of Addiction - BCP p. 831**
  - O blessed Lord, you ministered to all who came to you: Look with compassion upon all who through addiction have lost their health and freedom. Restore to them the assurance of your unfailing mercy; remove from them the fears that beset them; strengthen them in the work of their recovery; and to those who care for them, give patient understanding and persevering love. *Amen.*

**Step 3: We decide to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understand God.**

### **Readings from the Proper of the day**

#### **The Sermon**

#### **Litany of Healing**

Celebrant: Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers.

*The People name those for whom they are interceding.*

Celebrant: God, the Creator, your will for all people is health and salvation;

**People: We praise you and thank you, O Lord.**

Celebrant: God the Son, you came that we might have life, and might have it more abundantly;

**People: We praise you and thank you, O Lord.**

Celebrant: God the Holy Spirit, you make our bodies the temple of your presence;

**People: We praise you and thank you, O Lord.**

Celebrant: Holy Trinity, one God, in you we live and move and have our being;

**People: We praise you and thank you, O Lord.**

Celebrant: Lord, grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured, or disabled, that they may be made whole.

**People: Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Celebrant: Grant to all who seek your guidance, and to all who are lonely, anxious, or despondent, a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence;

**People: Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Celebrant: Mend broken relationships, and restore those in emotional distress to soundness of mind and serenity;

**People: Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Celebrant: Bless physicians, nurses, and all others who minister to the suffering, granting them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience.

**People: Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Celebrant: Grant to the dying peace and a holy death, and uphold by the grace and consolation of your Holy Spirit those who are bereaved;

**People: Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Celebrant: Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin, in our lives, in our nation, and in the world;

**People: Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Celebrant: You are the Lord who does wonders:

**People: You have declared your power among the peoples.**

Celebrant: With you, O Lord, is the well of life:

**People: And in your light we see light.**

Celebrant: Hear us, O Lord of life.

**People Heal us, and make us whole.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

### **The Serenity Prayer**

**God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.**

**Step 4: We make a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.**

**Step 5: We admit to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.**

**Step 6: We are entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.**

**Step 7: We humbly ask God to remove our shortcomings.**

### **7th Step Prayer**

**My Creator, I am now willing that you should have all of me, good and bad. I pray that you now remove from me every single defect of character which stands in the way of my**

**usefulness to you and to my neighbors. Grant me strength, as I go out from here, to do your bidding in Jesus' name. Amen.**

*Please stand or kneel as you are able.*

### **Confession & Absolution**

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**People: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

**Step 8: We make a list of all persons we have harmed, and become willing to make amends to them all.**

**Step 9: We make direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so will injure them or others.**

**Step 10: We continue to take personal inventory and when we are wrong, promptly admit it.**

### **The Peace**

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord always be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

### **The Offertory**

*The people's offerings are collected to support the ongoing work and ministry of our community.*

### **Offertory Anthem**

**Step 11: We seek through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understand God, praying only for knowledge of God's will for us and the power to carry that out.**

The Doxology 380 vs. 3

**The Great Thanksgiving**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts

**People We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give God thanks and praise**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth...

*Insert proper preface*

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Continue with Eucharistic prayer, Great Amen, Fraction, Distribution, and Communion Hymns*

**Postcommunion Prayer - The Book of Common Prayer, page 366**

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Step 12: Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we try to carry this message to others, and to practice these principles in all our relationships.**

**The Promises**

**If we are painstaking about this phase of our development, we will be amazed before we are halfway through. We are going to know a new freedom and a new happiness. We will not regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it. We will comprehend the word serenity and we will know peace. No matter how far down the scale we have gone, we will see how our experience can benefit others. That feeling of uselessness and self-pity will disappear. We will lose interest in selfish things and gain interest in our fellows. Self-seeking will slip away. Our whole attitude and outlook on life will change. Fear of people and economic insecurity will leave us. We will intuitively know how to handle situations which used to baffle us. We will suddenly realize that God is doing for us what we could not do for**

**ourselves. Are these extravagant promises? We think not. They are being fulfilled among us - sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly. They will always materialize if we work for them.**

### **Closing Hymn**

### **The Dismissal**

Deacon Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People **Thanks be to God.**

## **Resources for Recovery**

Adult Children of Alcoholics - <https://adultchildren.org/>

Narcotics Anonymous - [www.na.org](http://www.na.org)

Nar-Anon Family Groups - [www.nar-anon.org](http://www.nar-anon.org)

Alcoholics Anonymous - [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)

Al-Anon Family Groups - [www.al-anon.org](http://www.al-anon.org)

Global Outreach for Addiction Leadership & Learning (GOAL) - [www.goalproject.org](http://www.goalproject.org)

Overeaters Anonymous - [www.oa.org](http://www.oa.org)

Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous - <https://slaafws.org/>

Gamblers Anonymous - <https://gamblersanonymous.org/>

For additional resources - <https://www.episcopalrecovery.org/Recovery-Organizations>

## **Episcopal Church Resources**

Episcopal Recovery Ministries - [www.episcopalrecovery.org](http://www.episcopalrecovery.org)

Friends of Dr. Bob (Co-Founder of AA) - [www.friendsofdrbob.org](http://www.friendsofdrbob.org)

Two Way Prayer (early AA practice) - [www.twowayprayer.org](http://www.twowayprayer.org)

Sam Shoemaker Community - [www.samshoemakercommunity.org](http://www.samshoemakercommunity.org)

## **Additional Ideas & Resources**

- Anointing with oil during or after Prayers of the People
- Lighting candles for those still suffering, not in recovery during prayer/anointing or during communion
- Use Confession from Enriching Our Worship
- Add a reading from the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous



## **Possible Hymns**

### **From The Hymnal 1982:**

- #488 – Be Thou My Vision
- #490 – I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
- #594 - God of Grace and God of Glory
- #645 – The King of Love My Shepherd Is
- #664 – My Shepherd Will Supply My Need (Psalm 23, paraphrased)
- #671 – Amazing Grace
- #692 – I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
- #707 – Take My Life and Let It Be

### **From Lift Every Voice and Sing:**

- #72 – Just a Closer Walk with Thee
- #106 – Take My Hand, Precious Lord
- #133 – I Surrender All
- #184 – Blessed Assurance
- #192 – I Need Thee Every Hour

### **From Wonder, Love, and Praise:**

- #772 – O Christ, the Healer
- #773 – Heal Me, Hands of Jesus
- #810 – You Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord/On Eagle's Wings

### **Contemporary Songs & Other Hymns:**

- Ain't No Grave - Bethel Music
- Beautiful Things - Gungor
- Come As You Are - David Crowder
- I Am Resolved - Palmer Hartsough
- Healer of My Soul - John David Talbott
- Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus - Helen L. Lemmel