

Baptismal Promise:
“ . . . Care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace



However that may be, let each of you lead the life that the Lord has assigned, and to which God has called you...
1 Corinthians 7:17

Milestones Ministry... Blessing of the Hands



**Recognition and Celebration of the work of
Health Care Professionals, Social Workers, Law
Enforcement, EMS, Fire Services, Public Works,
Emergency Management Agencies, and
Disaster Services**

GATHERING:

L: Let us pray: God, source of all goodness draw your church together. We are called by the Holy Spirit to serve and love one another. As children of God, we have been marked by the sign of the cross of Christ forever, we are claimed, gathered, and sent for the sake of the world. Lord we ask for your blessings upon these hands. Hands that will be about your work. Hands which will spread love and compassion in your world.

Amen.

LITANY:

L: As we live in community with God and one another

C: *May our hands touch the lives of our neighbors*

L: When a stranger is in our midst

C: *May our hands be extended in welcome*

L: When our brother or sister is lost, distraught, or troubled,

C: *May our hands be used to point to the cross of hope and salvation*

L: Where there is injustice in the world and in our communities

C: *May our hands be instruments of healing, justice, and hope.*

L: In times of sorrow, sickness, and great suffering

C: *May our hands embrace the broken and offer prayers of consolation*

L: In times of disaster and tragedy

C: *May our hands bring help and comfort.*

ALL: *Blessed be these hands that have anointed the sick, enforced safety, and rescued the endangered. Amen!*

BLESSING OF THE OIL:

L: Holy God, as oil was used as a base for medicine in ancient times, we ask you to bless the use of this oil today. May its fragrance be a symbolic offering of what is pleasing to You. May its texture remind us that the soothing work of our hands is also pleasing to You. Amen.

BLESSING OF THE HANDS

The palms of hands will be marked by the sign of the cross with anointed oil.

L: May the work of your hands serve and bring healing, justice, and peace to all the people you touch.

Affirmation of Service:

L: Sisters and Brothers in Christ, God is at work. God is working through you, in you, and with your hands. Will you look to Jesus, who frees you from sin and death, to be your example in freely serving others with your hands in love, compassion and humility?

C: *We will and ask God to help us.*

Prayer of Commitment ELW p.85

C: *Merciful God, your healing power is everywhere about us. Strengthen those who work among the sick; give them courage and confidence in all they do. Encourage them when their efforts seem futile or when death prevails. Increase their trust in your power even to overcome death and pain and crying. May they be thankful for every sign of health you give, and humble before the mystery of your healing grace. We pray for those who work in danger, who rush into to bring hope and help and comfort when others flee to safety, whose mission is to seek and save, serve and protect. Give them caution and concern for one another, so that in safety they may do what must be done. Support them in their courage and dedication that they may continue to save lives, ease pain, and mend the torn fabric of lives and social order: Through Christ our peace. Amen!*

L: May the work of your hands serve and bring healing to all the people you touch. May God Bless you and the work that you do, now and forever