

THE HEALING TOUCH OF GOD



The Feast Of Saint Blaise – Feb 3

LEADER: Let us recall that we live and work in the presence of God.

ALL: We pray in the name of our God who is Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. Amen

HYMN: EAGLES WINGS (Michael Joncas, North American Liturgy Resources)

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
Who abide in His shadow for life,
Say to the Lord: “My refuge,
My rock in whom I trust!” CHORUS

The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
And famine will bring you no fear:
Under His wings your refuge,
His faithfulness your shield. CHORUS

CHORUS

And He will raise you up on eagle’s wings
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of His hand.

REFLECTION:

Today marks the feast day of St. Blaise, a physician and bishop who is best known for healing a child who was choking on a fish bone. Many Catholics get their throats blessed every year at about this time with candles held crossed and under the chin. While not too many reports verify that through the intercession of St. Blaise people have been free of all incidents involving fish bones in their throat, there are many times that we choke on our own words of unkindness that come forth from our throats..

St. Blaise is a patron saint of healing diseases. Every day we pray for healing in solidarity with each other. Another person has a new diagnosis of cancer, someone has lost a parent, one is struggling with mental illness, a couple prays for a painful marriage, a pregnancy is threatened, someone is in trouble with the law, and someone is lonely. There is nothing that we cannot ask. There is nothing we cannot bring before God and our community. We enter into each other's pain and create a healing circle. We plead, "Lord, hear our prayer," or we proclaim, "God hears our prayer!" We all are agents of healing, in many ways, both within and outside of this faith community.

All of the healing activity we long for is a sign of the reign of God. All of the healing that we seek leads to the reign of God. Like the reign of God, healing may be a present reality or a distant vision. To be healed does not always mean having things restored to the way they were before. In fact, sometimes when healing occurs, things are never the same again. The struggle can bring gifts, the journey can bring lessons. If we choose, we can be renewed and transformed in mind and body, no matter what course our dis-ease may take.



Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want; He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still water; He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; For you are with me; Your rod and your staff, They comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil, My cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

INTERCESSIONS:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, go before us to lead us,
behind us to prompt us,
under us to support us,
above us to bless us,
around us to protect us.

Come within us that we may serve you
with body and soul and mind,
to the glory of your name.

We are the light to others.
We pray that our light may shine so bright
that they may see our good works
and give glory to you. Amen.

**BLESSED EDMUND RICE. PRAY FOR US!
LIVE JESUS IN OUR HEARTS. FOREVER!**