

## ON RELEASE

*Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter and give thanks to the Lord. Psalm 118:19*

Going home . . . It's a great feeling! The door swings open and the familiar sights, smells and faces delight us. We thank God for times like these because He is the One who makes it possible.

His great power and love have opened another door for us, the gate to heaven. With all of our sins piled against it, we couldn't budge it. But Jesus has swept them all away. The door is wide open. One day we will enter heaven and be home for good, thanks to our Lord!

*Dear Lord, thank You for making my release possible. Brighten my way with Your sure promise of heaven's open door. AMEN.*

## THE ROAD BACK

*Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. Isaiah 40:31*

Do we have what it takes to make it? There are reasons for wondering. Our bodies are fragile. Our spirits can also become weak.

But there is a source of endless strength within our reach. It is not in us or in any other human. It is our Lord, who never tires in supporting us, whose love for us never weakens. With Jesus as our Hope, we do have what it takes to make it.

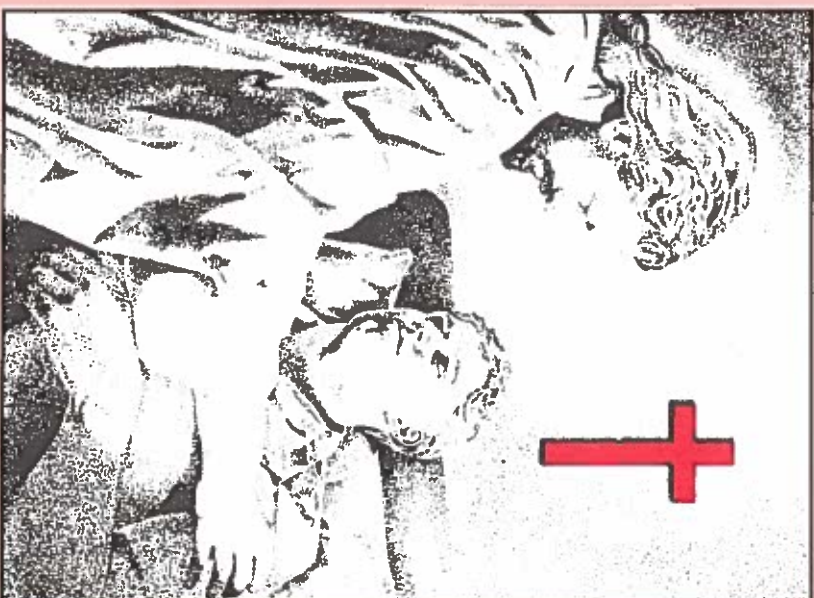
Make it to where? Our hope is in God's direction for us as well as in His promise to bring us safely there.

*Almighty Lord, help us to trust You for health and for heaven. AMEN.*



Commission on Special Ministries  
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod  
N16W23377 Stone Ridge  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
414-256-3241  
[www.wels.net/csm](http://www.wels.net/csm)

*the  
Great Physician  
at my bed*



*Meditations & Prayers*

## ON ENTRY

*Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.*  
**Matthew 11:28**

We go to doctors because we need help. Our bodies hurt. In our suffering Jesus invites us to come to Him. He is the Great Physician who holds our lives in His hand. He gives the healing, often through the ability He gives doctors.

There is a greater rest Jesus offers. He lifts from our shoulders the pain of guilt, the burden of our sin. He carried the weight on Calvary. There He healed our souls.

Jesus is the First Aid for our bodies and our spirits.

*Jesus, I come to You for rest. Bring my heart relief in Your forgiveness and grant healing for my body. AMEN.*

## THE HEALING PROCESS

*Come, let us return to the Lord. He has torn us to pieces but He will heal us.*  
**Hosea 6:1**

In order to fix something, you often have to take it apart. Car mechanics do it, doctors too, and it also may be God's way.

He takes down to rebuild. He wounds to heal. He touches our sore spots to make us stronger. We feel this when the Lord brings us to our knees in repentance and then lifts us up in the joy of His forgiveness.

In the healing process God calls us to trust and be patient. He knows what He is doing. We know that He loves us. And we can be sure that this too will work together for our good.

*Dear God, comfort me in my pain with the understanding that your plan for me is to heal, not harm. AMEN.*

## INSEPARABLE LOVE

*Neither death nor life . . . nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:38-39*

Amazing, isn't it! Side by side with Jesus we will walk forever. Now we live in the confidence, comfort, and direction of His promises. Because Jesus died on the cross, neither sin nor death will keep us tied to pain and frustration. We are tied to His love. In heaven we will enjoy it forever.

In a hospital room there is a lot we miss: family and friends, going to church, our daily routine and work. There is one thing these walls cannot cut off – the love of our Savior.

*Lord, I am not in this alone. I am in this together with You! AMEN.*

## HOSPITAL LIGHTS

*Let your light shine before men.*  
**Matthew 5:16**

Jesus encourages us to be lights for Him. The dark world, including hospitals, needs it. And we as His redeemed and enlightened children have much to offer.

Our family may need the reassurance of our trust in God. Other patients may long to know that there is hope and friendship available. The hospital staff too will appreciate a patient who is at peace and who is understanding.

Perhaps a faith that shines, even though confined to bed, is God's purpose for us here. Let your light shine!

*Dear Savior, may Your love and grace to me shine through to others. AMEN.*

## FACING UNCERTAINTY

*He alone is my Rock and my Salvation; He is my Fortress, I will never be shaken. Psalm 62:2*

Many things can cause our legs to wobble: the worry about lab tests or coming surgery, the pain during rehabilitation or just plain weakness.

God gives us something to grab on to – Himself, the Rock. In His forgiveness we have a certain future and promises that will never be broken. No bad news or infirmity can change this strength we have in our Lord.

Our knees may shake, but our Rock holds us solid.

*Lord, I cling to You, my Rock and my Redeemer. Hold me firm in the midst of the uncertainties I face. AMEN.*

## AFTER SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT OR SURGERY

*How can I repay the Lord for all His goodness to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation. Psalm 116:12-13*

How can we send a thank-you to God? There is nothing we can give except what is already His. But we can show our gratitude in praising Him for saving us body and soul, and in trusting Him more.

Through experiences such as these our Lord draws us closer to Himself. His presence, promises and peace shine more clearly. He puts more spirit in our hymns and more joy in our serving. Every new morning His goodness leads us to ask, "And now, Lord, what can I do for You?"

*Thank You God, for Your healing hand. Help my hands, my heart, and my mouth praise Your name. AMEN.*