*Introduction*

[In the name of…./on behalf of…] I welcome you to ….. today.

As our world and nation remain in the grip of a pandemic, we gather to pray for healing; for the healing of our world and nation and for the healing of all those who are in any need this day.

On this anti-slavery day, we commemorate all those who in generations past have been taken from their homes and families as slaves and we hold in our prayers most especially those whose life today is held captive by the power of others. We pray for all who are abused; for those who are trafficked around the world and treated as commodities to be traded rather than people to be loved. And we pray for those who, as we meet in safety, are travelling across land and sea, seeking to escape danger longing for a new life.

Today, as the Church gives thanks for the life and ministry of St Luke the Evangelist, physician and teacher, we pray for all those who dedicate their lives to the healing, welfare and wellbeing of others.

In a moment of silence, let us hold in our minds those who we know are in need of Christ’s healing and all those who this day are in great danger.

*Confession*

Jesus said ‘Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none;

and whoever has food must do likewise.’

In sorrow for our selfishness and greed, let us call to mind our sins.

Lord Jesus, you call us to be your friends.

On our unfriendliness;

Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are holy and gentle in heart.

On our unholiness and aggression;

Christ, have mercy.

*All* **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you came to humble the mighty

and to lift up the lowly.

On our desire for status;

Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Collect for Anti-Slavery Day*

God of compassion and love,

your beloved Son came to preach good news,

to bring release to the captives,

to liberate the oppressed,

and to bring sight to the blind;

by your grace,

open our eyes to the needs of the world,

give us the strength to join the fight against prejudice and oppression

and release us from the bonds of selfishness and greed,

that all those whose life is diminished by the selfishness of others

may know the power of your love to heal and to save;

through Jesus Christ, our healer and redeemer.

*All* **Amen.**

*Based on Luke 4. 18-19*

*Collect for the healing of the nation*

Loving God,

your Son Jesus Christ came that we might have life and have it abundantly;

pour out your blessing upon our nation;

where there is illness,

bring your healing touch;

where there is fear,

strengthen us with the knowledge of your presence;

where there is uncertainty,

build us up in faith;

where there is dishonesty,

lead us into truth;

where there is discord,

may we know the harmony of your love;

this we ask in Jesus’ name.

*All* **Amen.**

*Intercession*

Let us pray to the God of our salvation, who hears our prayers,

and whose Son has overcome death that we may live.

Your word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet and a light upon our path.

We give you thanks for your Evangelist St Luke

and we pray for your Church and for its healing,

that the Church may make your grace and salvation

known in all the world.

We pray for those who are called to translate and publish the scriptures,

and for all whose work in publishing and broadcasting

seeks to communicate the Christian faith.

Lord in your mercy.

*All***Hear our prayer.**

O Lord, the early followers of Christ

were accused of turning the world upside down by their teaching.

We pray for your world in need of radical change,

for wounded and divided humanity;

for all who are damaged and hurt by hatred, prejudice and injustice;

for all who in our own day are enslaved to the will of others;

Lord in your mercy.

*All***Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those national and international organisations

that seek after peace, reconciliation and an end to modern slavery.

Prosper the work of those who seek to bring justice and peace;

and turn the hearts of those whose ways and works are abusive and selfish,

that those who think themselves mighty may be humbled

and the voice of the meek may be heard.

Lord in your mercy.

*All***Hear our prayer.**

O Lord, through your prophet you promised that the sun of righteousness

would arise with healing in his wings.

We pray for all who are in need of your healing:

as we give thanks for St Luke in this time of pandemic,

we pray particularly for those who share in Christ’s ministry of healing;

for our health services,

for doctors, nurses and support staff,

for those who care for our loved ones in care homes and nursing homes,

for those who wait with people whose lives are nearing their end;

and we pray for those whose decisions affect the resourcing

of good health of mind, body and spirit.

Lord in your mercy.

*All***Hear our prayer.**

And we give thanks for those who in this life

brought life and light, joy and peace to those near and far,

and have now gone to their eternal rest.

May they rejoice for ever

in the presence of the one in whose house are many mansions,

in that place where death is no more,

and mourning and crying and pain are no more,

through Jesus our healer and redeemer.

*All* **Amen.**

*Blessing*

May God the holy and undivided Trinity

preserve you in body, mind and spirit,

and bring you to that heavenly country

where peace and harmony reign:

and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

by among you and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen.**