

BLESSING OF HANDS

PRESIDER: Those who care for the sick and suffering,
please come forward .

Pause for ministers to move.

After everyone is place, the presider continues:

**Hold your hands out in front of you
with your palms up.**

**You have chosen to bless others with your hands
in the work you do.**

Consider these words attributed to Saint Terese of Avila:

**“Christ has no body now on earth but yours;
no hands but yours; no feet but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which the compassion
of Christ must look out on the world.
Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good.
Yours are the hands with which He is to bless His people.”**

**Now we are going to bless your hands
in recognition of the Holiness of what you do every day.**

PRESIDER: Holy God,
bless ✠ these hands.
Gentle these hands
as they offer comfort to those in times of crisis.
Purify these hands as they wash in to encounter each patient.
Open these hands
to collaborate well for the good of those [they] serve.
Strengthen these hands
when the mornings are early and the nights are late.
Settle these hands when it is time to rest.¹
Through Christ our Lord.

ASSEMBLY: Amen