



# A Prayer of Thanksgiving and Hope for Health Care for All

We who fill this land of wealth and plenty are not so blinded to our advantages and blessings that we would fail to offer our prayer of thanksgiving. We sing of “sea to shining sea” with the full knowledge of our wonderful gifts of health and wholeness.

We give thanks that:

- Children can look ahead to a life with a reasonable promise of generous years.
- Most of us will live out our years with strong bodies and clear minds, even into the twilight of our days.
- When we do face illness or injury, remarkable resources of healing and restoration may be available so that, more often than not, our prayers for restored health will be answered.

We are grateful because our land is a place called home by so many gifted healers, and we are blessed by their vast store of wisdom and insight and practiced skill. We are grateful for the institutions of healing that stand tall in our cities and towns. And we are grateful for a public health infrastructure that frees us from the daily worries that weigh so heavily upon so many people in the world.

Yes, we have been blessed . . . perhaps too blessed? Is it time that we confess how we have allowed our appetites to get out of hand so that our worst health concerns today are often self-inflicted: obesity, diets rich in salts and fats, and too much sitting? Guide us to more properly care for ourselves as you envision . . . to hold less for ourselves and to hold out more to others.

Keep before us the knowledge that nearly 50 million people without health insurance in the United States live out each day without the same medical care for which we give thanks. Remind us that every hour five lives end prematurely for want of affordable medicines and doctor visits. We pray for transformed hearts that will not let us turn away from the conditions of those dear ones you given to us to share this journey of life.

Remind us that every gift carries with it a responsibility – that receiving is never complete until there is some response in sharing and caring for one another. May our prayer of thanksgiving be also a prayer of hope that love will define our common life more clearly.

We give thanks . . . and we hope for a health care future that includes everyone and works well for all of us. Amen.

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Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address, city, zip \_\_\_\_\_