



SAINT LUKE INSTITUTE

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**Welcome Prayer Service for Saint Luke Institute President & CEO, Rev. Patrick J. McDevitt, CM, Ph.D.**

Saint Luke Institute, Silver Spring, Md.

Reflection

*By Kathleen Hope Brown, D.Min, Director of Spiritual Care*

Today, we gather to pray for Father Patrick, as he takes the important role of leading us in our mission of healing. We ask God's blessing on him, and also on the Saint Luke Institute and our work in this ministry of healing, that we may faithfully serve the persons who come to us for care. We pray for faith and hope to strengthen us to meet the challenges of our time. Above all, we pray that we may always serve with love and compassion.

In the Scripture passage we just heard, fittingly chosen from the Gospel of Luke, Jesus assumes his ministry of healing. Saint Luke, as a physician and evangelist, carried on the healing mission of Jesus, as we do. The words of Jesus remind us that healing takes many forms, “liberty to captives, recovery of sight to the blind” are among those Jesus mentions. We might add, “companionship for the lonely, acceptance for those who have suffered rejection, a safe place for those who have suffered trauma.” We are called to offer healing, both in what we do and in who we are, and that means being people of hope.

Times of transition can be challenging. We can't see the future clearly. Our task now is to be reminded of our reasons for hope. Hope is not the same as wanting a particular outcome, but knowing that God is with us whatever the future holds.

Hope calls us to leave outcomes in God's hands, but that does not mean giving up our purpose.

Hope is not the same as joy that things are going well, but it is the courage and determination to work for something, even when facing challenges, because we believe in it.