



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

Adopted from *The Lutheran Service Book* (p. 294)

This brief service is intended as a simple form of daily prayer for individuals and families. When more than one person is present, the versicles and responses may be spoken responsively, with one person reading the words in regular type and the others responding with the words in bold type. The Creed and Prayers that are in bold type are to be said by all.

April 26th, 2020 A.D. – The Third Sunday of Easter

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Opening Versicles

In the morning, O Lord, You hear my voice;

In the morning I prepare a sacrifice for You and watch.

Psalm 5:3

My mouth is filled with Your praise,

and with Your glory all the day.

Psalm 71:8

O Lord, open my lips,

and my mouth will declare Your praise.

Psalm 51:15

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

For those with access to the internet, you may now play today's worship video, located on Bethany's website (www.bethanycr.org) under the Worship Resources tab and then continue with the Apostles' Creed. Everyone else may continue the service as printed....

Scripture Lesson – Luke 24:13-35

¹³ That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened.

¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them.

¹⁶ But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" ¹⁹ And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and rulers

delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. ²² Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” ²⁵ And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

²⁸ So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, ²⁹ but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹ And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” ³³ And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴ saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Sermon – *Hope and Peace in the Word* (A copy is included at the end of the service.)

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven And sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; The holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; The forgiveness of sins; The resurrection of the body; And the life † everlasting. Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

Bethany's Prayer List

Those suffering during the pandemic; the homeless; the unemployed; essential workers; Bonnie Bubke - *recovering after surgery*; Shirely Deetz – *hospitalization*; Shirley Hansen - *recovering after surgery*; Richard Pfeil – *recovering at home after hospitalization*; Bev Linman - *recovering from illness*, Glen (brother of Rob Sieck) - *cancer*; Dave Christian - *recovering after hospitalization*; Carolyn (mother of Mary Vezina) - *shingles*; John Hamm - *recovering after hospitalization*; Kris Dunn - *health issues*; Vern Happel - *health issues*; Brenda Heims - *recovering after surgery*; Joyce Fritz - *health issues*; Betty Hein- *recovering at home*; Stephanie Macke - *recovering after radiation treatments*; Nadine Wax - *recovering at home*; Al Bachman – *cancer*; Candi Engel – *at home*; Amanda Segebart - *mourning the death of her grandfather, Harold*; Mark Bornemann – *mourning the death of his nephew, Nathan*; Aaron Moffett – *mourning the death of his friend, Tod*; Carol Edwards – *mourning the death of her aunt, Ruth*; Taylor & Charlie (grandsons of Kim Neuhaus) – *serving in the U.S. Armed Forces*.

Collect of the Day

Merciful God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to all Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death in these troubling times, perpetual gladness and eternal joys that can never be taken away; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Concluding Prayers

Heavenly Father, send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts to direct and rule us according to Your will, to comfort us in all our afflictions, to defend us from all error, and to lead us into all truth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Together we pray... **I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that you would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



✠ *Hope and Peace in the Word* ✠

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

In our Gospel lesson (Luke 24:13-35) we come across two disciples who are slow to understand what is happening around them and fail to find hope and encouragement where God freely offers it to them. Today, many of us have a lot in common with these disciples on the road to Emmaus. But thankfully it's not just their despair or the lack of understanding that we might share with them, but also the way in which our loving and gracious God comes to them, opens their eyes to understanding, and gives them hearts that burn with God's hope and peace.

God's Word tells us that on the first Easter Sunday two disciples were walking down a road to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles outside of Jerusalem. One of the disciples was named Cleopas, who the early church believed was the uncle of Jesus and the father of the other disciple, named Simeon who would go on to become the bishop of Jerusalem. And as they walked along that road on the first Easter, they talked about the things that had happened over the last few days – and they were devastated. Their hopes for a better life here in this world and in the next had rested on Jesus. According to their own words they "*had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel*" (v. 21). But it seemed to them that a "Messiah" who managed to get Himself imprisoned and handed over to the Romans who then crucified Him was a disappointing delusion. As they were disciples, they followed Jesus and maybe even supported Him - and because of that their life had not been easy. But strengthened by the Spirit, they were willing to suffer the consequences of being a disciple of Christ. But now, as they walked along that road, now after they had seen Jesus be crucified, they ached with grief and confusion.

Knowing their miserable condition, Jesus found them, drew near and walked with them. They were prevented from recognizing Him when Jesus asked, "*What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?*" Cleopas responded, "*Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?*" You may have noted the irony here. Cleopas, stuck in his grief and despair, unknowingly accuses Jesus of having no clue about what has happened over the last few days in Jerusalem. The reality is that Jesus not only knows what has happened in Jerusalem over the last few days, but knows everything there is to know everywhere in the world. And it is Cleopas and the other disciple who are the ones who have no idea of what really has happened. They give the unrecognized Lord a pretty accurate run down of the events over the last few days. But instead of finding joy in all of this, they're discouraged. And it seems to be this way because they had neglected God's Word.

Jesus tells them, even before they knew who He was, "*O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?*" Then Luke tells us, "*And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself*" (24:25-27).

Now certainly these disciples believed the prophets in the Bible, but just as certainly they did not believe all that the prophets had said. They had read and believed the prophets selectively as they embraced the "Messiah as Ruler" passages, ignoring the passages that prophesied His sufferings. Cleopas even mentioned that it had been three days since Jesus' death, not recalling that Jesus had said over and over before His Passion that He would be put to death and rise again on the third day (Luke 9: 22; Mark 9: 31; John 2: 19). But these two

disciples were so depressed and negative in the confusion of that day that they were unable or unwilling to make the connection between what was happening and what they had learned from God's Word.

I think there have been many times over the last few weeks that we ourselves have fallen into the same traps that ensnared those two disciples on the road to Emmaus. Not only have there been times when we believed we knew more than God when the reality was that we knew nothing compared to His wisdom. But also, during this pandemic, we can run the risk of refusing to be comforted by God. I myself will spend hours and hours at home reading the latest news of what is going on all over the world. I'll check out websites to see how many people have been infected or how many people have died. I'll listen to podcasts of experts giving their opinions of when things might begin to change. But most of the time doing all of this doesn't make me feel any better, it just makes me feel worse as I run the risk of neglecting the one thing that God gives to us that can encourage and give us hope.

I have always found it interesting, and I believe that we always need to remember, that even those who walked with Jesus during His earthly ministry were always directed to the Word of God. Both before and after the resurrection, sometimes by angels, sometimes by Jesus Himself, disciples of Christ have the Word of God held up before them for comfort and understanding and for salvation. When Jesus began His ministry, Luke tells us that He taught the people – that in the synagogue of Nazareth He read from the book of Isaiah and taught the people that the text was about Him. In talking about the rich man and Lazarus, Jesus said the rich man pleaded with Abraham to send Lazarus to his brothers, thinking that if someone from the dead were to talk to them, they might repent and believe. But Abraham said that if they didn't believe Moses and the prophets, that is God's Word, then they won't even be convinced if someone should rise from the dead (Luke 16). At the empty tomb, the angels said to the women, "*Remember how He told you...*" And the women remembered Jesus' words – they remembered the Word of God and then ran to tell others what had happened. And now here on the road to Emmaus, coming to comfort and encourage these two despondent disciples, what does Jesus do? He interpreted the Word of God.

Of course, when Jesus interpreted God's Word for them, it wasn't just any old interpretation. As He always had taught, Jesus showed the Emmaus disciples that all of Scripture was about Him. Later on, in Luke 24, Jesus says that everything written by Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms, essentially the entire Old Testament, are centered on Him. In John 5, Jesus tells the Pharisees that the Scriptures bear witness about Him. Phillip in Acts 8 and Peter in Acts 10 both taught that all of the Scriptures were about Jesus. And St. Paul in II Corinthians (1) says, "*...all the promises of God find their Yes in [Jesus]*". What misery they could have been spared had the Emmaus disciples just remembered God's Word as Jesus had taught them! Because not only is the Word of God all about Jesus, it is all about His suffering and death and resurrection so that all people might be saved through faith in Him. And what better news, what better comfort can there possibly be in times of trouble than knowing that we have already been saved through the work of Jesus?

As the virus continues to spread in our state and around the world, as unemployment rises and financial futures seem uncertain, as we see more and more people becoming sick and dying, as no one seems to know when we'll be able to return to anything that even begins to look like normal – it's easy for us to be like Cleopas and the other disciple walking to Emmaus. We might overestimate our wisdom and underrate God's. Though we "know" God's Word, we might be selective in our memory or neglect the Word altogether, resulting in despair and hopelessness.

But whatever condition that we're in or whatever road it is that we are walking down, Jesus will always find us. And when He does, He'll treat us the same way He did the Emmaus disciples – with love and mercy. In doing so, He may not take away the pain or the uncertainty of life. But as He always has, He will give us His Word – the Scriptures – the Bible. And as they are all about Jesus, and His death and resurrection for us, there in the Bible we'll see the depth of His love for us and find the hope and peace that only He can give. Regardless of what we understand about the world around us right now, may we always hear this Word and understand the hope and love of God that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.