



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

The 14th of June 2020 A.D. – 2nd Sunday After Pentecost

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.

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 Psalm *Psalm 100*

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

² Serve the LORD with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!

³ Know that the LORD, he is God!

It is he who made us, and we are his;

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving,

and his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

⁵ For the LORD is good;

his steadfast love endures forever,

and his faithfulness to all generations.

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 – Matthew 9:35-10:8

And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. ²The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, “Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ ⁸Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay.

Sermon – † *The Compassionate Christ* † *(A copy is included at the end of this 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; our medical professionals and first responders; workers in the Church, here and throughout the world;
Thanksgiving: for today and the ability to worship together,
Don & Carol Loesch (parent of Angie Pfeil)- Celebrating 60th anniversary on 6/18
Joyce Fritz - recovering after hospitalization;
Al Bachman - cancer free;
Prayers for healing: Andrew (relative of Brenda Heims) - Recovering after surgery;
Ella Smith - broken arm
Ron Prescott - recovering after eye surgery;
Dee Rose - recovering after hospitalization;
Shirley Deetz - recovering at home after hospitalization;
Richard Pfeil - recovering at home after hospitalization;
Bev Linman - recovering from illness;
Dave Christian - recovering after hospitalization;
John Hamm - recovering after surgery;
Kris Dunn - health issues;
Betty Hein - recovering at home;
Stephanie Macke - recovering after radiation treatments;
Nadine Wax - recovering at home;
Ann Meyer - Terrace Glen, Marion
Ronda Anderson - mourning the death of a friend, Ashley;
Doug & Sheryl Knutson - mourning the death of a relative, Connie;
Steve Hanchera - mourning the death of his father, DeWayne;
Tina Freese - mourning the death of her mother, MaryEllen;
Tailor & Charlie (grandsons of Kim Neuhaus) – serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Collect of the Day

Almighty, eternal God, in the Word of Your apostles and prophets You have proclaimed to us Your saving will. Grant us faith to believe Your promises that we may receive eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Concluding Prayers

Almighty God, merciful Father, who created and completed all things, on this day when the work of our calling begins anew, we implore You to create its beginning, direct its continuance, and bless its end, that our doings may be preserved from sin, our lives sanctified, and our work this day be pleasing to You; 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.



✠ *The Compassionate Christ* ✠

Our Gospel Lesson for this Sunday is part of what is known as Jesus' Missionary Discourse and in some ways it is very specific to the 12 called apostles of that time. For instance, Jesus says in Matthew 10:5-6, "*Go nowhere among the Gentiles...but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*" If we were to assume that this command of Jesus to the 12 apostles applies to all Christians throughout all time then our mission field today would be pretty small. In addition we would have to say that Jesus contradicts Himself, for in Matthew 28, the church is told to go and make disciples of "all nations". And so we see that all of Jesus' marching orders to the 12 apostles in our text cannot and indeed must not apply to us today! But just because this is the case with some, does not mean that it is the case with all of the things that Jesus says.

This is important for us to remember here at Bethany this weekend. For while many of our fellow believers continue to faithfully worship at home, there will be some who will be coming back to the church for our first public service in almost three months. As we do this, we might be tempted to think that we are now "back" to where God wants us to be. We might be tempted to think that now we are hearing the Word, receiving the Sacrament, and praying together that this is the goal or even the essence of our Christian lives, the goal and essence of our walk with Jesus. But look at our text once again.

In 10:1 Jesus calls the 12 disciples to Himself, but then in 10:5 Jesus what does Jesus do? He sends them out. The 12 don't stay with Jesus, but they go out to do what He commands them. No longer are they just disciples, they are now apostles – literally, "ones who are sent". Of course none of us have been called into an apostolic ministry like the 12 mentioned in Matthew 10, but as we begin to gather again, I think we need to be reminded as Jesus begins to call us back together, that He doesn't just want us to stay here within walls of this congregation. He certainly does not want this to be the only place that we practice our faith. The only place that we read and study Scripture. The only place that we talk about the Good News of Jesus and the Kingdom of God that He always brings with Him. We as Christians, as we give thanks to God that some of us are able to come back to church, need to remember that Jesus also sends us right back out into the world.

And Jesus does this for the very same reason that He sent out the 12 apostles in our text. The reason Jesus sent them was not to heal nor resurrect. The reason was not cleanse, nor cast, nor even proclaim! These were the things that they would do, but the reason that Jesus sent them and the reason that Jesus would have them heal people and drive out demons and raise the dead – the reason is because He had compassion on people.

At the very beginning of our text we read that as Jesus travelled around teaching and preaching the Gospel, He taught the people that God had come into their lives and was fulfilling

His promise of a Savior through Him. And as Jesus did this, our text tells us that Jesus had compassion on them because the people seemed to be like sheep without a shepherd. Having celebrated Good Shepherd Sunday not too long ago, you may remember that sheep by themselves are unable to provide for or defend themselves. They rely upon a shepherd for protection and for guidance – for leadership! And as Jesus looked at the people around Him, He realized that while some in the crowds may have been fed or had places to sleep at night, they all needed help with their spiritual condition. They all needed help in dealing with their sin and their spiritual enemies and temptations. And therefore, it is likely that they, like most of us, needed help in the other areas of their lives, like relationships.

And when Jesus saw people like this during His earthly ministry, He had compassion on them. This compassion was more than just a feeling for Jesus – it is a critical characteristic of His true nature. In the entire New Testament there is only one person who has “compassion” or to whom compassion is attributed to, and that is Jesus Christ, our Lord. Therefore, while Jesus and the apostles did many things to help people, to heal people, to raise them from the dead - behind all of this was His compassion. The same compassion that sent Him to the cross and the grave.

The Church today needs to keep this in mind as it too is sent out into the world. I think it’s safe to say that as Jesus looks at us now, He sees people that are sheep without a shepherd. People who are being harassed and helpless. Helpless against the Coronavirus that is still killing over 900 people a day in this country. Jesus sees people who are helpless as they lose their jobs or have their hours and pay cut back because of the effects of shutting down the global economy. Helpless as we live lives of isolation – not being able to see and visit with those for whom we care.

The protests that we have seen throughout our nation and the world after George Floyd’s killing also makes it abundantly clear that when Jesus looks at His people, He sees that many of them have been and are still being harassed. And while the protests have called our attention to God’s children being harassed because of the color of their skin, racism isn’t the only harassment people face today. It can happen because you’re a Christian. Or because you live in poverty, suffer from emotional or mental health problems. People today are not just harassed in neighborhoods of color, but on playgrounds and campuses all across this country and on the web that travels around this wide world of ours.

And when Jesus sees this harassment. And when He sees us helpless and in need, what does He do? He has compassion. The same compassion and love for you as you suffer; for you as you’re harassed, the same that sent Him to the cross to die for your sin. And there He paid the price, through His suffering and death, so that you will not be helpless, or be harassed forever. Rather, you will have eternal life in His name. And that eternal life will be where people are healed forever. Demons are driven away – forever. Believers are raised to life – forever.

But today, Jesus does more than just have compassion. Like in our Gospel reading, He sends out His apostles. He sends out His Church.

Through the calling of the 12 apostles it is generally accepted that Jesus was making a statement that the Church, who follows the teachings and the writings of those apostles, would now become the new Israel. The old Israel, the descendants of the 12 sons of Jacob, was a foreshadow of the greater reality of God’s people in the Christian Church. And therefore, as Jesus sent out the apostles to the helpless and harassed He saw in Matthew’s Gospel, He sends out the Church to the helpless and harassed in our day. He sends out the church to help them because He has compassion.

Now some of you may be thinking, “But wait! How can I be sent out? I’m too old! I’m too young! I have to travel. I have to stay home.” Thinking of helping in the midst of a global pandemic or helping with problems that have plagued humanity since someone has looked differently from someone else can seem overwhelming. How can we possibly help people into or experience the Kingdom of God? Indeed, Jesus Himself says that the harvest is plentiful. But lest we think that we, as Christians can’t do anything in the midst of all the trouble that is facing the world right now, Jesus says, “*The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers...*” (9:37-38).

With great compassion for everyone who is suffering in the world Jesus sends out His Church, so that people, all people, may be brought into the kingdom of God where helplessness and harassment has no place because Jesus has defeated evil on the cross and through the empty grave. And for this to happen, Jesus does not tell you to virtue signal on your social media! He tells you to pray! That just as it is being sent, the Church, believers, are to pray that God would send out more laborers to bring people into the Kingdom of God. Because while we all need to be working together to solve the problems that we face today, ultimately sickness and disease, loneliness, poverty, violence, evil and death itself are not going to be solved through more education. They are not going to be solved by banning chokeholds or reopening the economy. The solutions for the problems we face are not going to come from lab, from Washington, from Des Moines, or from Main Street! The only place where you’ll find a permanent solution to sickness and death and evil for good is the Kingdom of God where Jesus Christ reigns.

So, give thanks to God that some of us are able to come back and worship God. But let’s remember that we have been freely justified by the blood of Christ because He had compassion on us. And we have been freely sanctified by the Holy Spirit to be sent out in the world to have compassion for people who are facing real problems in this life. And while we must do more than just pray for all our brothers and sisters who are being harassed and who are in need, it all starts with prayer. And that is something that the apostles did and that all of us today can do as well. So that as many people as possible can be brought from this great harvest, brought in to the Kingdom of God, where you may always dwell safely with our Lord. Amen.



Bethany Members and Friends,

There are a few things that I would like to mention this week:

- As we begin to have worship services back in the sanctuary, please do not forget the people who have and are still suffering from all of the effects of this pandemic. Keep them in your prayers and let us continue to look for ways to help.
- While I plan on resuming visits to our Homebound members to bring them Holy Communion, we are also planning on offering times at the church where members who are not homebound, yet still do not feel comfortable attending Sunday services, may come and receive the Sacrament. Look for more details very soon.
- Finally, please do not forget there is a Voters’ Meeting on June 28th at 10:00 am. There we plan on calling a Director of Christian Education. Please call the church if you plan on attending.

In Christ’s Service,
✠ Pastor Erickson