



## Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

### **The 21<sup>st</sup> of June 2020 A.D. – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 130*

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD!

<sup>2</sup> **O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!**

<sup>3</sup> If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

<sup>4</sup> **But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.**

<sup>5</sup> I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

<sup>6</sup> **my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning,  
more than watchmen for the morning.**

<sup>7</sup> O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,  
and with him is plentiful redemption.

<sup>8</sup> **And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.**

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

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#### **Scripture Lesson** – Matthew 10:5a, 21-33

These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them...Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, <sup>22</sup> and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

<sup>23</sup> When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

<sup>24</sup> "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. <sup>25</sup> It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.

<sup>26</sup>“So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. <sup>27</sup> What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. <sup>28</sup> And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup> Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup> But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. <sup>31</sup> Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. <sup>32</sup> So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, <sup>33</sup> but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

**Sermon** – † *Christ Counts* † *(A copy is included at the end of this service.)*

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### **The Nicene' Creed**

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven  
and earth and of all things visible and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of  
God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,  
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.  
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life † of the world to come. 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 law enforcement officials; workers in the Church, here and throughout the world.

Give thanks for Christian fathers. (Happy Fathers' Day!)

#### Prayers for Healing:

Gordon Doehrmann - *medical procedure on 6/23*

Eleanor (Ken Cook's mother) - *suffering from a stroke in isolation.*

Lyla (relative of Sheryl Knutson) - *health issues*

Gene (husband of Karen Schmidt) - *upcoming surgery 6/23;*

Andrew (relative of Brenda Heims) - *recovering after surgery;*

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;*

#### Homebound

Del & Dee Block - *Summit Point, Marion*

#### Prayers for Those who Mourn

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;*

#### Our Military

Taylor & Charlie (grandsons of Kim Neuhaus) – *-serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.*

## Collect of the Day

Let us pray... O God, because Your abiding presence always goes with us, keep us aware of Your mercies that we may live secure and content in Your eternal love; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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.**



✠ *Christ Counts* ✠

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

When I was a young boy and would fish with my father and brother, I would often count fish that I had hooked, but had failed to get into the boat or onto shore as fish that I had caught. So, when we would get home I would tell my mother something like, “I caught three fish!” when the reality was that I only caught one fish and two got away. If my father heard me telling these fish stories, he would remind me that you actually have to catch the fish to say you caught a fish, very often to which I would reply, “But I was close!” Then my father would say, “Close only counts in horseshoes and hand grenades.”

Now there are other times when being close counts for something, but the famous saying seems to ring true more often than not. If you’re out hunting or shooting trap or shooting baskets, close doesn’t count. If you’re trying to run a race, you can be close, but if you don’t cross the finish line, it doesn’t count. When you’re paying your mortgage, your electric bill, or trying to get the garbage out to the curb in time, it’s nice to be close, but as the lights get turned off or you see the city truck driving away while your left with a stinky bag of garbage for another week you realize close doesn’t count.

Looking at our text for today I would think that our Lord Jesus, would tend to agree. For there in Matthew 10:22, Jesus says, “*But the one who endures to the end will be saved.*” He doesn’t just say the one who endures will be saved, but the one who endures *to the end* will be saved. You can’t just endure for a little while and then stop enduring, or get close to the end and be saved. It’s the one who endures all the way to the end! But what exactly does that mean? It’s a fair question because here Jesus is not just talking about fishing or sports, or even hand grenades. Here He’s talking about our salvation! So what does this idea of enduring to the end mean?

Well first, Jesus tells His disciples and all Christians that they will have to endure, because they will have to suffer the scorn of this world. Very often, when Christians read the Gospel accounts in the Bible, God’s Word tells them of the suffering and humiliation of our Lord Jesus. We read of His humble birth to the Virgin Mary. We read how his half brothers and sisters thought He was out of His mind, how people rejected Him, how the religious leaders tried to kill Him, how the Roman soldiers beat, spit on and mocked Him before they crucified Him. And when Christians read this they see behind our Lord’s suffering and death His great love for each and every person who has ever lived. They see this love because they know it could only be love that would cause Jesus to go through all of this for us. And that love is certainly there. But what we often fail to see behind our Lord’s suffering and death, is our own suffering. Our own suffering – not because of our sin – but because we’re Christians in a world and in the midst of people who have rejected Christ.

“*A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master*”, Jesus tells us in our text. And if they treated Jesus the way that they did, Jesus who came to show them God’s love and forgiveness, who performed incredible miracles of power and mercy, if they treated Jesus the way that they did, what makes us think that the world will treat us, or any Christian better? Jesus describes just how horrible the suffering from this persecution might be. He says that the people who are the closest to us, (parents and children and siblings), may kill us because of our faith in Christ and their rejection of Him. And if this doesn’t happen, and let us pray that it never will, these extreme situations should serve as warnings to be ready to endure any persecution or any hardship because we follow Jesus in an age and a culture that is becoming increasingly hostile to our faith and to Him.

Yet we cannot just endure for a little while. We can not just suffer for our faith for a moment, and then give in or take a path of lesser resistance. A path away from Christ because it doesn’t make us seem so extreme or naive or, as some opponents of the Church like to call faithful Christians, so “hateful”. As a disciple of Christ we remain faithful to Him and His Word in the Scriptures until the persecution is over and until the struggle ends. And as you can imagine this can come about in many ways. Perhaps it happens through a time of peace for the Church. Perhaps it happens when we are persecuted to the point of death. For there, resting with Christ, the troubles on this side of the grave will be no more. Or perhaps the end comes about when our Lord cuts this time short and returns again with glory.

Whatever the case may be, our Lord tells us to endure until the times of trouble are over because it will be so worth it. His promise to us is that those who endure will be saved. Saved from their own sin. Saved from the power of the Evil One. Saved from both physical and eternal death in hell forever. And the salvation that Christ gives to us is so complete and full that it is often called a new life in Christ because this salvation puts to death our old sinful ways of doing things, and puts to death our fears and concerns, and makes us new creations living

according to God's will. But we have to make it to the end, because with salvation close doesn't count.

But here is the Good News. We don't have to rely upon ourselves to endure to the end. In fact, we probably need a little bit less of ourselves to endure the hardships of our faith until they are over. Because when we rely upon ourselves, when we say all of this is something that I have to do, we are placing ourselves underneath God's Law where we cannot to anything but fail. But Christ has already succeeded. He has already endured all of the persecution, all of the temptation, all of God's wrath over our sin so that we can be saved! So when we live under the Law, close doesn't count. But, because of God love and mercy and grace, Jesus counts for everything!

So, we don't rely upon our own works, but we trust in Christ. We hear and read and study His Word in the Scriptures at church and in our homes and with other faithful Christians wherever they may be. We receive the Sacraments as the gifts that they are so that we may receive God's forgiveness and have our faith strengthened. We pray. We pray that God would help us to endure and that regardless of what we see going on around us, His will would be done. Because His will is always what is best for us.

The Word of God, Baptism, Holy Communion, prayer – these are the tools that God Himself uses to help us endure to the end. Because Jesus our Lord has already done everything needed for this to happen. And through these gifts He gives us His mercy and love. Through prayer and the Means of Grace He's assured us that He will be with us to help us endure the persecutions or whatever hardship we face, so that we won't just get close, but that we actually will be a saved. Amen.



Bethany Members and Friends,

As we continue to move through our lives in the midst of the viral pandemic, there are a few things that I would like to mention in regards to our congregation at Bethany:

- As we begin to have worship services again at the church (9:00 am on June 21 and then our normal schedule of 8:30 and 11:00 am beginning the 28<sup>th</sup> of June) please note that for the time being we will be celebrating Holy Communion at all of the services. I understand that regular attendance is difficult during this time for many and there is always the possibility that we may have to suspend public worship again. Therefore, we will have Communion as often as possible so that those who are here may receive this sacrament.
- Please note that we are having an important Voters' Assembly on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June at 10:00 am to call a Director of Christian Education. So that we may be as safe as possible, we are asking that you sign-up online or by calling the church for the Voters' Assembly, (much the same way you do for Sunday Service) beginning on Monday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June if you plan on attending. Also, because of this meeting we will not be having Bible Study on that day. Sorry for the inconvenience.

Your Servant in Christ,  
✠ Pastor Erickson