



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

The 28th of June 2020 A.D. – 4th 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 32

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**² Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

³ For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

**⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

⁵ I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;

I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

⁶ Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;
surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.

⁷ You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸ I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

⁹ Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.

¹⁰ Many are the sorrows of the wicked,

but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.

¹¹ Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

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 – Romans 7:1-13

¹Or do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives? ²Thus a married woman is bound by law to

her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage.³ Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress.

⁴Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. ⁵For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. ⁶But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve not under the old written code but in the new life of the Spirit.

⁷What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet." ⁸But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. Apart from the law, sin lies dead. ⁹I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. ¹⁰The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. ¹¹For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. ¹²So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

¹³Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.

Sermon – † *Dying to Live* † (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

We pray for 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:

Bev Linman - *recovering from illness*

Brenda Hein – *recovery from cancer*

Bob Sternowski – *healing from cancer*

Prayers for healing/comfort:

Gordon Doerhmann - *medical procedure*

Jane (daughter of Bonnie Bubke) - *medical procedure*

Dave Christian - *recovering after surgery*

Ella Smith - *recovering after broken arm*

Gene (husband of Karen Schmidt) - *recovering after surgery*

Doreta Bogner - *seeking employment*

Oz (father of D Hinrichs, J Hester & S Gates) - *in patient cancer treatment*

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*

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: Rollis Deetz - *at home*

Mourning

Doris Baker- *mourning the death of her mother-in-law, Yonne*

Ken Cook- *mourning the death of his mother, Eleanor*

Ronda Anderson- *mourning the death of a friend, Ashley*

Doug & Sheryl Knutson - *mourning the death of a relative, Connie*

Our Nation

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

Collect of the Day

Let us pray... Almighty God, by the working of Your Holy Spirit, grant that we may gladly hear Your Word proclaimed among us and follow its directing; 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.



✠ *Dying to Live* ✠

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

Currently, one of the cars in our family squeaks when you drive it down the road. Now I know that the problem is with the rear suspension and that the car is perfectly fine to keep driving. But let's say that I didn't know where the squeak was coming from and I didn't know that it was safe to keep driving. What I might do is replace the transmission. Or maybe the exhaust. Maybe, if I believed that the problem was bad enough, and that the whole car was beyond redemption I might sell it, or even scrap it. But if the problem is the suspension, and I replace the transmission or the muffler, I will have spent a considerable amount of time and money and still have a squeaky car. Or, if I get rid of the car because I think the whole thing is a lost cause, I won't have to listen to the squeak, but I won't have a car when I could have just kept driving the one I had. This illustrates the necessity of knowing the cause of any problem we face before we try to fix it or take some sort of action to get rid of it. Because if we go looking for solutions where there aren't any problems, we'll be stuck with the real problem forever.

St. Paul seemed to know this when he was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write Romans 7. There, Paul describes the interesting relationship between the Law of God and our own sin. He begins by showing us that death frees us from our obligation to the Law. He uses a woman who marries her second husband as an example. If she married her second husband, cheating on her first while he was still alive - that would be a terrible sin, a transgression of the Law. But if she married her second husband after her first husband had died, she would have committed no sin. Death would have freed her from the Law.

Paul goes on to say that without Jesus in our lives, we are still alive under the entire Law of God. As a result, our enemies use the Law of God to produce the fruit of this death - more and more sin. This is why Paul says he would not have known what coveting was unless the

Law of God said, “You shall not covet” (Romans 7:7). So, the question then follows, “Is the Law of God sin?”

This may sound rather foolish at first, but if you follow Paul’s line of thinking, it may make some sense. “*Apart from the Law sin lies dead...but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. The very commandment that promised life, proved death to me*” (7:8b-9). So, if the commandment or the Law brings about sin, and sin cannot live without the Law, is the Law bad? Is it sinful? Should we do away with the Law, as our culture seems to be trying to do, so that we could do away with sin?

Our society is filled with examples of this. Generally speaking, people don’t like the idea of sin or doing the “wrong thing” regardless of whether they believe God is somehow involved or not. So, sometimes we try to live in ignorance, or distract ourselves and others away from the Law, pretending to never have known that the Law says, “You shall not covet”. Or we try to change the Law because there must be something wrong with it. We say, “Sometimes (like when you really want to) it’s OK to covet”. But if we start blaming the Law for the problem of sin and death and evil, it’s like blaming the transmission when your suspension is squeaking. And if you change the transmission, or just turn up the radio to ignore the squeak – you’re not going to take care of the problem.

So where does the problem of sin and death and evil lie? Where do these problems come from? Paul writes in 7:11, “*For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me.*” For careful readers of the Scriptures, this should sound eerily familiar. Back in Genesis, when we read of our first parents Adam and Eve falling into sin, we read of Satan deceiving them, tempting them to disobey God’s own clear command not to eat from the Tree of Good and Evil. Martin Franzmann writes in his commentary on Romans, “*That black day when the serpent used the command of God to alienate man from his God was repeated in the life of Paul; sin exploited the commandment to deceive him and so killed him.*” What was true for Paul, is true for all of us. The problems that we face whether they be death, persecution or hatred, an alienation from our God, are caused by, not the Law, but by Satan and his sinful power that works against God’s will.

Just look at Job. In the Old Testament book that bears his name, Job loses all of his wealth, his family is killed, and he becomes covered in sores from which there is no relief (Job 1-2). His friends who come to comfort him believe he must have done something wrong and that Job needs to repent of his sin (Job 8). But the reader of these Scriptures know that Job has nothing to repent of. We are told that God Himself said that Job was, “*blameless and upright*” (Job 1:8). Instead, the readers of Job are taken before the throne of God where they see that it is not the Law or Job’s sin that brought about his troubles, but God’s enemy, Satan. And Satan will do whatever he can so that Job will sin by cursing God. He’ll use the Law to produce sin, that tears us away from God and makes even more sin.

And so as it is with Job, and Adam and Eve, and St. Paul, and so it is with us. There are lots of problems that we face in the world today. There is a lot of sin and a lot of evil. But as we look for escape from these lives of death, from being slaves to sin, let us be honest about where the problem truly lies. We will not deny that a virus is killing people and has brought untold strife and agony into people’s lives. Nor will we deny that there are people who are racist in our world today, treating others in ways they would never want to be treated themselves. But behind all of these problems and behind all of this evil lie, not a lack of a vaccine, nor a lack of education or tolerance, nor the Law of God. But rather behind this evil is Satan. And if we don’t recognize that, we’ll be changing out all sorts of parts in the car that we call our lives as it

continues to squeak on down the road. Because as Paul writes back in Romans, as long as we are under the Law, we will continue to fall into temptation's trap, being slaves to sin and producing nothing but more and more sin.

But Paul not only identifies the problem, he tells us the solution. He writes in Romans 7:4 that you, "...*have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God.*" Just as the married woman is free from the Law governing marriage through death, so too are Christians free from God's Law through the death of Christ. We read in II Corinthians 5:14, "*For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died*". When Christ's body hung on the cross, when God gave up His own Son for us all, when Christ took upon Himself the entire curse of the Law, then we died to the Law. The same loving act of God that delivered us from the power of sin has freed us from the dominion of Satan using the Law and for the same purpose: that we may no longer live in sin, but to Him who died and rose again for us, now bearing the fruit of God.

The evil of this world comes from Satan. And we are powerless to free ourselves as he uses God's own Law to enslave us to sin and all sorts of evil. But through Christ's death, we have been forgiven those sins and have died to the Law ourselves, so that now we live for Him according to His good and holy Law. We live for Jesus in a world that is being ravaged by a pandemic and continues to struggle with racism, mistrust, and misunderstanding. We live for God when we face problems that only affect us and our lives. And as we live for God and bear the fruit of God, we look for and work towards solutions that alleviates suffering and pushes back the evil that surrounds us. We do this because we have been set free through the death of Christ and now, we no longer live under the Law, but we live for Him who had died and rose for us and everyone. Amen.



Bethany Members and Friends,

As you know, our congregation continues to carry on our mission to *Live and Share God's Love* during these difficult times. In order that we may continue to do this as we believe God would have us do, we are having a Voters' Assembly this Sunday, June 28, at 10:00 am to call a Director of Christian Education (DCE) to serve at Bethany. However, given the current situation with the Coronavirus, I understand that many members may be hesitant to come to this meeting, making it difficult to obtain the 50 members that we need for a quorum. Therefore, we have secured a low powered FM transmitter that will allow you to hear the meeting in our south (sometimes called the "back") parking lot over your car's radio. If you would like to attend this important meeting in this way, please sign up on our website or by calling the church or myself directly. Then on Sunday, park your car in the south lot by 10:00 am and you'll receive further instructions on how to listen to the meeting, ask questions, participate in any discussions, and vote to call a DCE.

I appreciate the faithfulness of all of God's people over these last few months, including those who are willing to participate in this Voters' Assembly. And I pray that by God's grace and mercy we may all be kept safe and healthy and continue to serve our Lord until His return.

In Christ's Service,
✠ Pastor Erickson
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