



## Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

**The 5<sup>th</sup> of July 2020 A.D. – 5<sup>th</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 145:8-14*

<sup>8</sup>     The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
<sup>9</sup>     **The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.**  
<sup>10</sup>  All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your saints shall bless you!  
<sup>11</sup>  **They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power,**  
<sup>12</sup>       to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds,  
          and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.  
<sup>13</sup>       **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,**  
          **and your dominion endures throughout all generations.**  
      [The LORD is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works.]  
<sup>14</sup>  **The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.**

*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 11:25-30

<sup>25</sup>At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; <sup>26</sup>yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup>All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. <sup>28</sup>Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

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 first responders; workers in the Church, here and throughout the world;

#### Thanksgiving:

Bob (husband of Carolyn Sternowski) – *cancer free*

#### Prayers for healing/comfort:

Gordon Doehrmann – *waiting 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;*

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;*

#### Mourning:

Shirley Deetz (*wife of Rollis, mother of Barb, Scott, and Kim*) – *died 7/1*

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

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

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

### Collect of the Day

Let us pray... Gracious God, our heavenly Father, Your mercy attends us all our days. Be our strength and support amid the wearisome changes of this world, and at life's end grant us Your promised rest and the full joys of Your salvation; 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

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scripture to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**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.**



✠ *Dependent Independence* ✠

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

244 years ago, the 13 American Colonies in what was then known as the New World declared their Independence from England and its' Crown. But declaring independence is different than having independence. And thus, a great struggle ensued on the North American continent. Names and places like Lexington, Concord, Yorktown, Revere, and Washington remind us of the battles and the hardships that the Colonists and their supporters fought and endured to achieve their freedom. And so even today, as some in our nation question whether or not we all enjoy the freedom of America equally, it is still appropriate that we celebrate Independence Day together, and acknowledge the price our nation's founders paid to have that freedom for themselves and for all of us.

But Christians, and indeed every American, should not only remember with thanksgiving our nation's founders, but also give thanks to our Heavenly Father. For the blessings that we enjoy living in this great land may have come to us through the likes of Washington, Franklin, and later on Douglass and Tubman, but they are truly and only given to us today by God. Thus, the independence that we celebrate this weekend is a blessing from God alone. But as with many good things that God gives to us, there is always a danger in misusing them. And so, as we celebrate our freedom of speech and the free press; as we celebrate that the government can not tell us how or who to worship; as we celebrate that we have the right to choose our own leaders and a host of other freedoms that have countless men and women have worked and must continue to work for, but that come ultimately from God, it's fair to ask in the midst of our celebrations, "What would God have us do with our independence?"

There is a story of a leaf on a tree that was often jealous of the birds flying through the air. The leaf longed to no longer be attached to the branch that held it to the tree, but wanted to soar with the eagles and the other birds. And so, it struggled and pulled against the branch until one windy day it finally broke free. For a while, the leaf soared through the air on the wind, enjoying all of the freedom it had ever dreamed of. But eventually when the wind died down, the leaf quietly fell to the ground, where it dried out and died on the forest floor with all of the other leaves that had gained their "independence" from the tree.

More and more, what we see happening in our country, in our society, and perhaps even in our own lives is that people are using their independence and freedom to be independent from God. For some it may be that they despise God or refuse to acknowledge His existence. But for

many it is simply because they love themselves and their ways more than they love God. But whatever the reason, God clearly says that pulling oneself away from God leads only to physical, as well as spiritual, death.

It was this attitude of independence from our dependency on God that Jesus was facing when He first spoke the words of our text from Matthew's Gospel. At that time many in Israel believed that they could save themselves through their own efforts and good works. Their attitude was much the same as someone today who says that they will get into heaven because they are a good person or because they do more good things in life than bad. In short, many of the Jews around Jesus believed that they did not need God's mercy or grace for salvation because they could earn it themselves. While this may sound appealing at first, the reality is that this is an incredible problem. For not only would a person have to worry about keeping the Sabbath Day holy, they had to worry about how far they walked on the Sabbath. Scribes, who were among the religious leaders of the day, not only had to worry about misusing God's name, but also how to write it out of fear of the possibility of misusing it. And so, teaching that one must keep the Law to be saved, and therefore independent of depending on God for salvation, the teachers of the time turned God's Law into something that became an incredible burden.

But in our Gospel lesson Jesus says that the ways in which God's Kingdom works, the way in which our salvation actually happens, has been hidden from those who believe they are wise in leading people to be independent of our dependence on God. Instead, God in His mercy has shown salvation to those who are like the most dependent of all - little children. And God's Kingdom comes and salvation is given to those rely on Jesus Christ as their savior from sin. We are not independent from God, but must rely on the atoning work of Jesus Christ to pay for our sin. And this is exactly what God wants, as in our text Jesus sends out the invitation, *"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."* Jesus is not saying that everyone who believes or follows Him will have an easy life nor ever trouble come their way. Rather He is telling everyone that there is no need to worry if we have kept the Law well enough or have done enough good works, because we haven't. Rather He is calling everyone to be utterly dependent on Him and His mercy to free us from the bondage of sin and its terrible and eternal consequences.

Having been freed from sin and now living independent from it, how much more should we celebrate everyday than our nation does the 4<sup>th</sup> day of July?!?! But just as our nation honors and remembers the brave men and women who have worked to give us freedom in this land when we continue to struggle for freedom for everyone today, Christians honor Christ when we use the freedom that was bought with His own blood to serve and love others.

This means, we do what Christ commands and we stay away from what He forbids. It means as we see our country and many of its citizens move farther and farther away from God, it is imperative that the Church and Christians listen to the voice of our Lord in His Word, so that may grow closer and closer, not just to God, but also one another. And it means that should we see our country becoming more like Babylon than Jerusalem, we take comfort in knowing that *All things have been handed to Jesus by His Heavenly Father.* We take comfort in knowing that God was in control 244 years ago when He gave our nation its independence. We take comfort in knowing that God is still in control today during our struggles and our battles, so that even though many use their freedom to move away from God, we may always depend on the blood of Christ that has eternally freed from our greatest enemies sin and death. Amen.



Bethany Members and Friends,

As we all continue to live in the world that has been turned upside down by COVID-19 pandemic, it is important for us to do the best we can wherever God has put us. For parents and children this means being the best parents and children we can be. For employers and employees, this means being the best employers and employees that we can be. For the Church this means *Living and Sharing God's Love* through God's Word and Sacraments. The following few notes are to inform you of how we will continue to do that at Bethany for the foreseeable future:

1. Over the course of the next few weeks it is our intention that we will continue to hold worship services every Sunday at 8:30 and 11:00 am. Everyone is welcome to attend these services. However, those who are over the age of 65 or who have medical conditions that increase their risk of complications may want to continue to stay home. Regardless of the reason for not attending, everyone who is not in church on Sunday is strongly encouraged to make use of the worship resources that are available online or that are being mailed to those who do not have internet access. These resources are the best way for those not attending Sunday services to continue to be in the Word of God.
2. Holy Communion will continue to be celebrated at every Sunday Service throughout the month of July. However, recognizing that many people who desire to receive the Sacrament are still uncomfortable coming to Sunday worship services, we will begin to offer the Sacrament on one Sunday afternoon each month to those who are using the worship resources at home. The first Sunday we will be doing this will be the 12<sup>th</sup> of July, beginning at 1:00 pm. Family groups will be asked to sign-up for 15 minute time slots the week before so that we may practice all of the best safety measures while receiving this blessing from our Lord.
3. Previously, we had hoped to have various ministries begin meeting again in person starting in the month of July. Unfortunately, the Linn County Health Department has said that the virus is currently spreading in our area. Therefore, we will continue to postpone activities at the church, like our Thursday Morning Bible Study. However, Sunday services will continue, along with Sunday Morning Bible Study. Beginning on the 5<sup>th</sup> of July, Bible Study will resume meeting at 9:45 am with people being able to participate both in person in the Family Life Center, and online over Zoom. Our topic of study over the next few weeks will be, "Coping with Stress".

Of course, there are many other things happening in our congregation and the things that we have discussed above are always subject to change. So check our website and Facebook page or call the church office for the most current information on how we all are *Living and Sharing God's Love*.

In Christ's Service,  
✠ Pastor Erickson