



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

The 12th of July 2020 A.D. – 6th 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 psalm 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 65:9-13*

You visit the earth and water it; you greatly enrich it;
the river of God is full of water; you provide their grain, for so you have prepared it.

¹⁰ You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges,
softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

¹¹ You crown the year with your bounty;
your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.

¹² The pastures of the wilderness overflow,
the hills gird themselves with joy,
¹³ the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain,
they shout and sing together for joy.

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 – Isaiah 55:10-13

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return
there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall
accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹²“For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you
shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall make a name for the LORD,
an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

Sermon – † *Never Disappointed* † (*A copy is included at the end of this service.*)

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:

Doreta Bogner - employment found

God's Guidance

Jessica Dvorak – Considering call to serve as Bethany's DCE.

Prayers for healing/comfort:

Agnes & Shel (friends of the Siebenmanns)- serious medical issues

Rick Foreman- *upcoming surgery*
Gordon Doehrmann - *medical procedure*
Debbie (niece of Carol Grimminger)- *ill with COVID-19*
Jane (daughter of Bonnie Bubke) - *medical procedure;*
Dave Christian - *recovering after surgery;*
Ella Smith - *recovering after broken arm;*
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

The Deetz Family - *mourning the death of Shirley*
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... Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that 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.

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.



✠ *Never Disappointed* ✠

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

It can be frustrating when something doesn't work the way you expected or wanted. Maybe you ordered something online and when it finally comes in the mail it doesn't fit, was the wrong color, or wasn't compatible with your existing stuff. Maybe you purchased a tool or some sort of gadget that when you first tried to use it you realized it wasn't going to work "as advertised".

For me, about seven years ago our family adopted a dog, a dog that sure looked like a Labrador Retriever. But seven years later, I'm still waiting for him to retrieve, retrieve something. Retrieve anything!

Likewise, my son Aiden and I have been spending some of our free time out fishing this summer. When we first started fishing back in April, our set-up was pretty basic. But as we've continued to go out fishing this summer, we've acquired more stuff to take with us, especially fishing lures. The problem with these fishing lures however, is that they do better attracting people in the store who will be doing the fishing, more so than the actual fish out in the lake. So, I have all of these really great looking fishing lures, that I thought for sure would catch "the big one". But to my disappointment they haven't caught anything other than weeds.

Thankfully, while there are all sorts of things in our lives that can frustrate or disappoint us because they were not what we expect or don't work as advertised, God and His Word are not among them. The prophet Isaiah tells us in 55:10-11, "*For as the rain and snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my Word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but shall accomplish that which I purpose and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.*"

Through His prophet, God tells us how His Word works. Clearly and simply, God presents a striking comparison. His Word comes from Him like rain and snow from Heaven. When rain and snow come down, there is nothing that can stop it. And when it hits the ground, it always waters the earth to make it bud and flourish. It always accomplishes its' purpose. When God's Word comes to the ears of people, it always accomplishes its' purpose as well. Paul told Timothy, "*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work*" (II Timothy 3:16,17). In addition, God's Word can be used for judgment. Isaiah had the difficult job of proclaiming God's Word and watching as it made the hearts of listeners calloused and their ears dull. But more than anything, the great accomplishment of God's Word is the salvation of sinners. Hearing the Gospel, people's hearts and minds are turned away from their sin and back to God where He promises forgiveness and salvation. John writes in his Gospel account that, "*...these [things] are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name*" (John 20:31).

It is important for Christians and the Church to remember that it is through His Word that God does these things. He promises to teach, to rebuke, correct, equip, judge and save, not through the beauty of nature. Nor sincerely held beliefs and feelings. But He promises to do all of these things through His Word! Of course, God could have done all this through any other way that He wanted. But the entire Bible tells us that God works through His Word. Earlier in Isaiah 55 God is speaking to those who cannot take care of themselves – those who are thirsty but have nothing to drink and those who are hungry but have no money to buy food (vv 1,2). Since these are metaphors for those who long to be with God and enjoy His blessings, God tells these poor people to listen to Him, incline their ears to Him, hear His Word that their souls may live!

Whenever anyone thinks that he or she can do without having God’s Word in their lives, such a person is simply ignoring the way God has promised to work within us and often becomes disappointed with God. Apart from God’s Word, they believe that God has let them down or is not acting like God. But their disappointment is not God’s fault, it’s their fault for cutting themselves off from the very means that God uses to give people what they’re often looking for. Not money or fame of course, but things like peace and purpose and salvation.

The Word of God is the means by which we have these things because the Word of God brings us to Christ our Savior. Martin Luther says in his explanation to the Third Article of the Creed that, *“I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel.”* We might behold the majesty of God in the created world and wonder at God’s glory and majesty, but those insights will not bring us to Christ. Only His Word can do that. As Paul says in Romans, *“Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ.”*

In a world that is so often filled with disappointment and let downs, what a blessing it is to know that we can always rely upon God’s Word to do exactly what He wants, especially when God wants us to be saved from our sin through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ! As we face these disappointments and other struggles in life, let us be reminded that God and His Word is never letting us down, just as the rain and snow never fails to water the earth when it falls. But let us also be aware and on our guard, that we are not the ones who are disappointing ourselves, each other, and even God – by ignoring His Word. For doing so leads not just to disappointment, but also to death. But when we listen to the Word of God as it comes to us in the Scriptures, we have eternal life and eternal salvation that God freely gives to us. Because through the Word we are brought together with Christ our Savior who will always do what He says and never let us down. Amen.

