



## Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

**The 30<sup>th</sup> of August 2020 A.D. – 13<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 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 117*

Praise the LORD, all nations!

**Extol him, all peoples!**

For great is his steadfast love toward us,  
**and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.**

**Praise the LORD!**

*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 Athanasian Creed. Everyone else may continue the service as printed....*

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### **Scripture Lessons**

*Romans 12:9-21*

<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. <sup>10</sup>Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

<sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited. <sup>17</sup>Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup>To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

*Matthew 16:21-28*

<sup>21</sup>From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” <sup>23</sup>But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? <sup>27</sup>For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. <sup>28</sup>Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

**Sermon** – † *Living a Life of Love: Don't Put the Cart Before the Horse* †  
*(A copy is included at the end of this service.)*

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**The Athanasian Creed** *(As is tradition at Bethany for the fifth Sunday of the month.)*

Whoever desires to be saved must, above all, hold the catholic faith. Whoever does not keep it whole and undefiled will without doubt perish eternally.

And the catholic faith is this, that we worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the substance.

For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Holy Spirit is another. But the Godhead of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is one: the glory equal, the majesty coeternal.

Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit: the Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, the Holy Spirit uncreated; the Father infinite, the Son infinite, the Holy Spirit infinite; the Father eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal. And yet there are not three Eternals, but one Eternal, just as there are not three Uncreated or three Infinities, but one Uncreated and one Infinite. In the same way, the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, the Holy Spirit almighty; and yet there are not three Almighty's, but one Almighty.

So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God; and yet there are not three Gods, but one God. So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord; and yet there are not three Lords, but one Lord. Just as we are compelled by the Christian truth to acknowledge each distinct person as God and Lord, so also are we prohibited by the catholic religion to say that there are three Gods or Lords.

The Father is not made nor created nor begotten by anyone. The Son is neither made nor created, but begotten of the Father alone. The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son, neither made nor created nor begotten, but proceeding. Thus, there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits. And in this Trinity none is before or after another; none is greater or less than another; but the whole three persons are coeternal with each other and coequal, so that in all things, as has been stated above, the Trinity in Unity and

Unity in Trinity is to be worshiped. Therefore, whoever desires to be saved must think thus about the Trinity.

But it is also necessary for everlasting salvation that one faithfully believe the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, it is the right faith that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is at the same time both God and man. He is God, begotten from the substance of the Father before all ages; and He is man, born from the substance of His mother in this age: perfect God and perfect man, composed of a rational soul and human flesh; equal to the Father with respect to His divinity, less than the Father with respect to His humanity.

Although He is God and man, He is not two, but one Christ: one, however, not by the conversion of the divinity into flesh, but by the assumption of the humanity into God; one altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person. For as the rational soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ, who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead, ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence He will come to judge the living and the dead. At His coming all people will rise again with their bodies and give an account concerning their own deeds. And those who have done good will enter into eternal life, and those who have done evil into eternal fire.

This is the catholic faith; whoever does not believe it faithfully and firmly cannot be saved.

### **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.**

#### **Bethany's Prayer List**

Those suffering after the storm & during the pandemic  
Our medical professionals and first responders  
Workers in the Church - here and throughout the world

#### **Thanksgiving**

Assisting Washington HS on 8/25 with food distribution in our parking lot  
Bethany's volunteers in storm recovery efforts

#### **Prayers for healing/comfort**

Kristi Montague- *vision issues*  
Kent Zenor- *recovering after second eye surgery*  
Candi Engel- *recovering at Westridge Care Center after hospitalization*  
Darlene Eckert- *recovering after broken leg*

Lee (husband of Brenda Heims)- *recovering after surgery*  
Aaron Moffett- *recovering after eye surgery*  
Dee Rose- *hospice care at home*  
Jeff, Angela & Wes Keslar- *recovering after COVID-19*  
Dave Christian - *recovering after surgery*  
Ron Prescott - *recovering after eye surgery*  
Kris Dunn - *health issues*  
Stephanie Macke - *recovering after radiation treatments*  
Nadine Wax - *recovering at home*

### **Mourning**

Steve Wilson- *mourning the death of his father, Raymond*  
Larsons- *mourning the death of a friend, LeAnn*

### **Serving Our Country**

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

### **Collect of the Day**

Let us pray.... Almighty God, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him wherever He leads; through the same 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 all our doings may be preserved from sin, our life sanctified, and our work this day well 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.**



✠ *Living a Life of Love: Don't Put the Cart Before the Horse* ✠

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

Today, I want to talk about what Martin Luther calls, “The most noxious of all pests.” No, Luther was not referring to any particular public official or even to the devil or his works. Rather, Luther was referring to good works. It is not that Luther was opposed to good works – quite the contrary, he knew that they always and must go hand in hand with faith in Christ. But the danger in good works is the tendency for people, who are naturally selfish and self-centered to look at them as something that we do. And when we perceive this to be the case, we very often pat ourselves on the back and believe that God owes us something. When we increase ourselves in this way, the importance of God decreases in our lives and we end up in places that we should not be.

But in the verses of our Epistle Lesson St. Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, describes what our relationships to our Christian brothers and sisters, as well as our relationships to our enemies, should look like. And he simply tells us that the foundation of these good works should be love. There is a common misconception these days that love is something that makes us feel good. But this is not love as God knows it. Rather when Paul says, “*Let love be genuine.*” and in the very next sentence says, “*Abhor what is evil*” he gives us a glimpse of how God Himself looks at love. It is not something that simply makes people feel “good all over”. Rather genuine, godly love is an abhorrence of evil which is coupled with holding on to what is good. This is not easy and does not always make us feel good. But doing so makes us decrease so that God may increase in our lives and in the lives of those around us.

Paul knows that by ourselves we can't do this. Who after all, wants to honor other people? Who wants to be patient with others? Or show hospitality? Bless those who persecute us and avoid seeking revenge? If you do do these things, rejoice! For God is already at work within you. But if you struggle with them, then know that you are a sinful human being like everyone, and go to the cross of Christ.

This is where Christ invites us in our Gospel Lesson. There, after Jesus has fed thousands of people, after He has walked on water, after He has heard Peter confess that He is the anointed One of God, He begins to teach them where this is all leading. We are told in Matthew 16:21, “*From that time Jesus began to show his disciples He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.*” Of course the disciples don't want to hear about Jesus suffering, anymore than our old sinful natures want to hear Paul telling us to honor others and avoid seeking vengeance! But when Peter Jesus that His suffering and death shall never happen, Jesus rebukes Peter with some of the strongest language found in the entire Bible. This is because the entire plan of God's salvation rests up the atonement of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection. To have Jesus avoid the cross is what Satan desires. But the Son of God dying on the cross for your sins belongs to the things of God.

Jesus teaches His disciples this in our Gospel lesson so that they won't get caught up in the good works or the miracles that He has done to show His power as the Son of God. Without taking them to the cross, the disciples may have focused their work on the feeding of the 5000 or walking on water, or even just worshiping Jesus as some fearful deity who came to be served. But by taking the disciples to the cross, Jesus assures that the disciples will be saved themselves and equipped to live lives of love as St. Paul urged the Romans and all of us to do.

Thus, we see that our salvation, must come before our Good Works. To put the cart before the horse, that is to do good works without faith, destroys the goodness of any work in God's eyes and runs the risk of losing our faith and salvation. Jesus says in John 15, "*I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*" And while James points out in his epistle that faith without works is dead, Paul writes earlier in Romans that the *righteous will live by faith* (Romans 1) and that *one is justified apart from works of the law* (Romans 3).

So, as we continue to live in a world that is wrestling with how to respond to the Coronavirus, and as we live in communities that will be struggling to recover from Category 4 hurricane winds, let us follow God's instructions that He gave through St. Paul in our epistle lesson today. Contribute to the needs of the saints. Show hospitality. Live at peace with others. Do not be overcome by the evil that is around us, but overcome that evil yourself with good. Doing all of this, with genuine and sincere love for others. This is not easy, but it is possible for those who have been redeemed by the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus our Lord. And when we do this because we have been saved and made righteous through faith, our good works will not be noxious pests causing all sorts of trouble. But rather they will glorify and be used by God, as they help our neighbors, Christ commands us to love. Amen.



*Please be sure to check out this month's Beacon for all of the latest news and updates at Bethany!*