



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

The 27th of September 2020 A.D. – 17th 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.

Psalm – *Psalm 25:1-10*

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

² **O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies exult over me.**

³ Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴ **Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.**

⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all the day long.

⁶ **Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.**

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

⁸ **Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

⁹ He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

¹⁰ **All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.**

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 – *Matthew 21:23-32*

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me

the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."

²⁸"What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹And he answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went. ³⁰And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him."

Sermon – † *Reject Rejecting* † (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.**

Bethany's Prayer List

Those suffering after the storm and during the pandemic
The homeless & the unemployed
The construction workers helping people recover and rebuild
Workers in the Church, here at Bethany and throughout the world

Thanksgiving

Naomi Pfeil and Darrell Chiavetta- married 9/26

Healing

Steve (uncle of Matt Rinderknecht & Erin Heller)- health issues
Alyse (granddaughter of Janelle Dunbar)- brain tumor
Gary & Pearl (parents of Jeff Crow)- recovering from COVID-19
Kristi Montague- vision issues
Kent Zenor- recovering after second eye surgery
Darlene Eckert- recovering after broken leg
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

Shut-Ins

Ann Meyer- Terrace Glen

Mourning

Wayne Schilling- mourning the death of his wife, Darlene
Steve Wilson- mourning the death of his father, Raymond

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, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; 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

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.



✠ *Reject Rejecting* ✠

Grace, Mercy, and Peace to you from God – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Jesus had His authority challenged by the Elders and the Chief Priests. But we see in this weekend’s Gospel Lesson that He’s not going to play their game or fall into their trap. Rather, He’ll turn the tables on them, showing them that they need to repent. The question that remains then is, “will they?” And more relevant for us today is the question – “Will we?”

Now most of us have never questioned the authority of Jesus, at least not in the way that we see in Matthew 21. There may be times when we wonder what He (as the Lord and Giver of Life) is doing. There may be times when we don’t always trust Him as we should. But I’d be surprised if any of us ever really questioned if God has the authority to do what He wants. And yet, Jesus’ response to this challenge of His power reveals that we might be a little bit closer to the Elders and Chief Priests in our text than we would like to admit.

You see, when challenged, Jesus brings up John the Baptist, who prepared people for Jesus’ coming by teaching them that righteousness only comes from God. Jesus, turns the tables on His adversaries by asking where John’s baptism, or his work, came from. If they said heaven, then the question would be, “Why didn’t they listen to John and trust in Jesus for their forgiveness?” If they said John’s baptism wasn’t from God, they knew they’d have a whole bunch of people angry at them. And so, we see that John that Baptist and Jesus are closely linked together in Matthew’s Gospel, with Jesus essentially saying that if you reject John and his message to find righteousness in God – you are rejecting Christ Himself!

What we need to be aware of today is what we are rejecting that might cause us to reject Jesus, and therefore lose our salvation and hope. Now, we don’t have John the Baptist out in the wilderness or standing in the Jordan River to reject. But we do have someone or something that is

even closer to Jesus than John was. In Revelation (21:9), one of the seven angels says to John, “*Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.*” Here, and throughout Scripture, we see the Church being portrayed as the bride of Christ. And as if the bride and groom relationship were not close enough to illustrate the relationship between Jesus and the Church, St. Paul says in I Corinthians 12, “*Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.*”

How close can you be to someone if you don’t get along with their spouse? How close can you be to someone if you hated something as close to them as their own body? Chances are, not very. A few years ago I had a good friend who was dating a girl that I didn’t get along with. The tension between her and I almost ruined the relationship with my friend! In the same way, when people reject the Bride of Christ, when they reject the Body of Christ, when they reject the Church – they run the risk of losing faith in our Lord.

Back in our text, the rejection of the religious leaders in Jerusalem of John’s message and work prompted Jesus to tell the parable of the two sons who go or don’t go out to work in the family’s vineyard. Some have said that this parable teaches us that it is what we do that is important, and not just what we say. But there is actually more to the story than that. You see, both sons had actually done something that was pretty bad back in those days. The second son, simply did not do what the father had asked, while the first son did eventually go and work in the vineyard, but only after he disrespected his father by saying that he wouldn’t. Thus we start off with the idea that both sons are actually, pretty bad. But, one of them does eventually do what the father wants.

Now the key to this parable is understanding what our Father in Heaven wants from us, because we might think that this is just a warning to keep God’s Law – the 10 Commandments and so forth. But remember, that after Jesus tells us the parable, He goes back to talk about John the Baptist coming in the way of righteousness. A righteousness that does not come from our own works or keeping the Law, but a righteousness that comes from God through Christ. Therefore, the work that our Heavenly Father wants us to do is to believe in Jesus as our Savior. To believe that Jesus is the Son of God, sent by the Father to die on the cross for our forgiveness. In John 6 the crowds ask Jesus what they must do to be doing the works of God. Jesus responds, “*This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent*” (6:29).

When people do this good work – when they believe in Jesus Christ – then their own works against God no longer matter. Their sins are taken away as far as the east is from the west. This is why Jesus can say that some people, like prostitutes and tax collectors (who were known to steal from people) can be saved and still enter the kingdom of God. Like the first son in the parable they initially disobeyed God as they sinned. But then, despite all of their flaws, they heard God’s call to repentance - to turn from their sin and to Jesus to be saved.

Despite whatever flaws that we ourselves might have, we too can do the good works of God. Through the church, God’s Word is still proclaimed calling people to repentance and faith in Jesus. This means, that there need not be anyone who is left out of God’s Kingdom. For through Jesus Christ, God has had mercy on all sinners who have not rejected this call and have turned to Him, regardless of what we have said or what we have done in the past. Only by God’s grace are we able to do this. But He is faithful and just, and will do exactly as He promises. May we always receive this grace with open arms, turn from our sin, and be saved in Jesus’ name. Amen.

And now, may the peace of God that surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds forever in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.