



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

The 4th of October, 2020 A.D. – 18th 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 other parts of the service 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 80:7-19*

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved!

⁸**You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.**

⁹You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.

¹⁰**The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches.**

¹¹It sent out its branches to the sea and its shoots to the River.

¹²**Why then have you broken down its walls,**

so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?

¹³**The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it.**

¹⁴Turn again, O God of hosts! Look down from heaven, and see; have regard for this vine,

¹⁵**the stock that your right hand planted, and for the son whom you made strong for yourself.**

¹⁶They have burned it with fire; they have cut it down;

may they perish at the rebuke of your face!

¹⁷But let your hand be on the man of your right hand,

the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself!

¹⁸Then we shall not turn back from you; give us life, and we will call upon your name!

¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts! Let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

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 Nicene Creed. Everyone else may continue the service as printed....

Scripture Lessons

Matthew 21:33-46

³³[Jesus said:] "Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to

tenants, and went into another country. ³⁴When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. ³⁵And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' ³⁹And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. ⁴⁰When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" ⁴¹They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons."

⁴²Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures:

*"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?"*

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. ⁴⁴And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him."

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

Sermon – † *Kingdom People Produce Kingdom Fruit* † *A copy is at the end of this resource.*

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.
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 after the storm and during the pandemic
The homeless & the unemployed
Doctors, Nurses, and Medical Professionals
Workers in the Church, here at Bethany and throughout the world

Healing

Kristi Montague- upcoming eye surgery on October 5
Stephanie Macke - upcoming medical appointment for reconstructive surgery
Dee Rose- hospice care at Meth-Wick nursing facility
Darrel Peterson (father of Janet Hoech)- life sustaining cancer treatment
Brent & Rachel (grandchildren of Bonnie Breiholz)- recovering after COVID-19
Kent Zenor- recovering after second eye surgery
Darlene Eckert- recovering after broken leg
Aaron Moffett- recovering after eye surgery
Jeff, Angela & Wes Keslar- recovering after COVID-19
Dave Christian - recovering after surgery
Ron Prescott - recovering after eye surgery
Kris Dunn - health issues

Shut-Ins

Del & Dee Block- Summit Pointe, Marion

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

Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness 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.

The Lord's Prayer

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.



✠ *Kingdom People Produce Kingdom Fruit* ✠

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sweet corn is the official state vegetable of...Illinois. And Nebraska is often referred to as the Cornhusker state. But as we all know here at Bethany, when the world thinks of corn, it thinks of Iowa. Iowa, has consistently been the top corn producing state for quite some time, and itself grows more corn than every country except China and Brazil. Of course, Iowa is not unique in being known for growing a certain type of fruit or vegetable. Georgia is known for its' peaches, Florida its' oranges, Idaho its' potatoes. The point is that many states are known for a fruit or a vegetable that its people produce.

Just as states are known by the fruit each produces; the kingdom of God is also recognized by the fruit its people produce. Of course, this fruit is different than what is found out in the fields or orchards of our land, because people of God's Kingdom produce "kingdom fruit".

Now we might not think that producing this fruit is all that important these days. But in truth, the production of kingdom fruit is a special task given to Christians by the almighty God

Himself. The importance of this task cannot be over-stressed, especially when one considers the task has been taken away from others who failed at its production. This is what is taught in the Gospel reading for this weekend from Matthew 21.

In our text Jesus tells us the parable of the wicked tenants, who beat and kill the master's servants and his own son. The master of the vineyard will then put the wicked tenants to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits of the harvest. Jesus concludes by saying, "*Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him*" (Matthew 21:33-44).

Going on in Matthew 21:45, we read, "*When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parable, they perceived that he was speaking about them.*" Their perception was correct. The chief priests and the Pharisees had not been producing kingdom fruit. Now, they were rejecting the very Son of God and would be the ones who would be responsible for His death. They were following the pattern of their forefathers who had rejected the prophets and their message - the prophetic message that was now being fulfilled in Jesus.

The result of their actions was stated very clearly and emphatically by Jesus. He said in no uncertain terms, "*Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits*" (Matthew 21:43). These words of rejection spoken to those who denied Jesus also carry special emphasis for those being given the kingdom of God. The emphasis of His message is just as strong to the new tenants. Simply stated, *The kingdom of God will be ... given to a people producing its fruits*. Fruit production is expected of kingdom people. Or, as is the theme of LWML Sunday this year, "Kingdom people produce kingdom fruit."

Through the Word and Sacraments, we are made the new people of the kingdom. We truly did not deserve this honored position. As the Scriptures declare, we were enemies of God. But in this state, God reconciled us to Himself. As the Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Rome, "*While we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son*" (Romans 5:10a). Through the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus, we receive this reconciliation through the forgiveness of sins. In the waters of Baptism, sins are washed away and faith is given.

By faith, then, we believe in Jesus as the Son of God. By faith we are tenants of God's kingdom. By faith we bear fruit for the kingdom. This is what Paul meant when he wrote to the Romans, "*Likewise, 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*" (Romans 7:4).

Let there be no doubt, then, to be kingdom people is a gift. The words of Jesus are clear. The kingdom of God is "given." At the same time, let it also be equally understood that the production of fruit in the kingdom is the expectation of people living in kingdom people. As Jesus taught in the parable, the master will "*let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons*" (Matthew 21:41b).

This is appears to be a daunting task. And indeed, by ourselves it is impossible. But as people in the kingdom of God, God graciously nurtures us and generously gives us everything we need to produce fruit for the kingdom. The words from verse 33 of the Gospel reading remind us of what the master has done: *The master ... planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower*. All this he did before turning over the vineyard to the tenants. The master supplied everything the tenants needed to produce fruit.

The same is true today. The Lord supplies all we need. As Luther explains in the *Small Catechism*, the Holy Spirit calls us by the Gospel and enlightens us with His gifts. When Jesus

says in John's Gospel that, "*I am the vine; you are the branches...*" He teaches us we are connected to Jesus, who is our lifeline for bearing fruit. He does this by empowering us through the Word and Sacraments for this very purpose. Being nurtured by God, we *walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work* (Colossians 1:10).

For those to whom the kingdom has been given, it is now fruit production season, because this is what kingdom people do. And by God's grace, this is what the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) has done in the past, and will continue to do in the future with all of God's people. From churches to communities to the world, the LWML is well known for gathering mites for mission grants in their home districts and global work abroad. Their hands-on labor expands the love of God in Christ Jesus from the congregation to the community and then around the world. The LWML is a blessing to many as they are "Kingdom people producing kingdom fruit". This weekend we acknowledge this blessing from God, use the LWML as examples of faithful service, and join with them when possible in producing kingdom fruit.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "*Every healthy tree bears good fruit*" (Matthew 7:17). As followers of Jesus, God makes us healthy in Christ. We are in the right state, namely His kingdom. We are in the right season, the fruit-producing season. So, Kingdom People, "Produce Kingdom Fruit!" Bear forth the fruits of repentance, faith, and works of faith. Go, make disciples. Live and Share God's love wherever He places you so that the kingdom of God be recognized by our fruit! Amen.

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