



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

11th of October 2020 A.D. – 19th 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 23 [KJV])

☐ The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

☒ He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. Amen.

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 22:1-14*

¹Again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, ³and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.’ ⁵But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. ⁷The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as

many as you find.’¹⁰ And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹“But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. ¹²And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Sermon – † *Dressed for Distress* † (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

Entrusting into God’s Care

Those suffering after the storm and during the pandemic

The homeless & the unemployed

Dee Rose- hospice care at Meth-Wick nursing facility

Rollis Deetz – hospice care at St. Luke’s

Workers in the Church, here at Bethany and throughout the world

Thanksgiving

Stephanie Hedtke and Taylor Chittick - married 10/10

Ron Prescott - recovered after eye surgery

Healing

Kristi Montague- recovering after eye surgery
Stephanie Macke - upcoming medical appointment for reconstructive surgery
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
Kris Dunn - health issues

Shut-Ins

Larry & Sharon Easler- Summit Pointe, Marion

Mourning

Crow family- mourning the death of their uncle, Harold
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 invite us to trust in You for our salvation. Deal with us not in the severity of Your judgment but by the greatness of Your mercy; 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.

✠ *Dressed for Distress* ✠

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

Some of you may be wondering right now why I am wearing a running shirt here in the pulpit. But the question that I would like you to ask is not, “Why is he wearing a pink running shirt?” but rather, “Why is he not wearing his vestments?” If you have ever seen me preaching here at Bethany, you know that I almost always am wearing an alb and stole while leading worship and sharing God’s Word in the pulpit. Not every pastor chooses to do this, which is fine, but I do it out of respect. I wear my clergy vestments out of respect for God’s people who gather to receive the Lord’s blessings through the Word and Sacraments. I wear them out of respect for the office of the ministry, an office which many others who came before have held, and God willing, many who will come after me will hold. And last, but certainly not least, I wear my clergy vestments when I preach out of respect for our Lord. The clergy shirt or clerical, usually black, reminds us that the pastor is a sinner. However, the alb reminds us that we have put on Christ’s righteousness in baptism and that our robes have been washed white by the blood of the lamb. And finally the stole is a symbol telling us that the pastor only serves the flock under Jesus, who is THEE Good Shepherd.

So, why no vestments today? Have I lost my respect for the members of Bethany? For the Office of the ministry? For our Lord? Not at all, I can assure you. But if you were surprised to see me in the pulpit like this, you might be able to imagine how the king in the Parable of the Wedding Feast felt. And if you can imagine that, you might be able to imagine how God the Father feels when people sin and reject His Son, Jesus Christ.

Jesus tells the parable in the Gospel lesson this weekend to the religious leaders who have rejected Him and His teaching. It’s not a parable about heaven or the end times, but rather a teaching on how God works in the world right now. And Jesus says this is like a king who is having a wedding feast for his son. He has apparently invited guests and is expecting them to come. But when the king sends out the servants to tell the invited guests everything is ready, they decide not to show up.

Now you can surely imagine that any royal event would have been a big deal back in those days. But a royal wedding for the king’s son would have been at the top of everyone’s must-see list. So imagine the shock when the invited guests not only decide not to come, but reject the king’s invitation for some relatively unimportant reasons and then mistreat and kill some of the king’s servants. It’s disrespectful. Disrespectful to the king and to his son and therefore we are told that those guests were not worthy to attend the feast.

Of course, other guests are invited and the wedding hall is filled with people. We are told, filled with people who are both good and evil. Apparently, these good and evil people are worthy to attend the wedding feast. But during the party, the king sees someone who is not wearing a wedding garment. When the king asks him about this, he has no answer. So the king has him bound, and thrown out into the darkness, where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Now remember, according to Jesus, this is how the Kingdom of Heaven is. This is how God rules over His creation. So, what’s taking place? First, the king in the parable is God the Father and the son in the parable is God’s only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. The wedding feast that people are invited to is the heavenly banquet of salvation referred to Revelation 19:9, when the angel says to John, “*Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage feast of the Lamb.*” Israel, God’s chosen people were the first to be invited to take part in God’s salvation, but they didn’t

want to hear about it. They wanted to do their own thing. So, they rejected and killed the prophets, God's servants who invited them to this banquet. Therefore, God sent His army against them, destroying the temple in Jerusalem, not once, but twice – the last time in 70 A.D. at the hands of the Romans and it has yet to be rebuilt to this day. But the wedding feast will continue. The king sent out his messengers to invite everyone, both good and evil, to the feast of the Lamb and indeed, the church is filled with people from all nations to this day.

Belonging to the church and being saved is not dependent upon who we are or what we have done. Remember, Jesus specifically says that both good and evil are now at the banquet. What does make us worthy to be at this feast, however, is our faith in Jesus. When, we accept the invitation to come to the feast, we have faith and trust in God, and believe that Christ is our Lord and Savior. By faith we believe that He is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This faith is itself a gift of God, something we cannot have by ourselves. But it comes to us from the Holy Spirit through God's Word and Sacraments – otherwise known as the Means of Grace.

People of faith now fill the wedding hall. And yet, there remains a problem. Just as the king in the parable sees someone without the proper attire for such an occasion, God sees people in the church who don't deserve to be there. Like the guests who simply don't come in the first place, there are those who don't take the feast of the Lamb seriously and they disrespect the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Instead of adorning themselves with faith and good works at this celebration, they dress with indifference or even hatred towards God and His Son, Jesus - an outfit that will ultimately see them bound and thrown into Hell.

Today, we often find ourselves like the first guests who refused to come to the feast and like the man who was thrown out because he was not wearing the correct clothes. So often we believe that we are too busy to occupy ourselves with the things of the kingdom that refuse the invitation to take part in God's Kingdom. At best, this is because we are busy with our God given vocations, but in reality it is often because we are distracted by the unimportant things in life. But then even if we first initially respond to God's gracious invitation to the kingdom, we need to remember to take living in the kingdom seriously and be respectful to our Lord and Savior. This not only means making use of the Means of Grace – reading and studying God's Word and receiving the sacraments. But also adorning ourselves with good works.

If seeing me preach today in a pink running shirt doesn't seem right to you, then remember that is how God looks at us when we are living in His Kingdom and mock Him or disrespect Him. When we misuse God's name or fail to call upon Him in prayer; when we despise His Word and Sacraments; when we fear, love and trust in things more than Him - He sees us and knows that it's just not right. But thankfully, God in His mercy is always ready to forgive. He Himself says that good and evil people will be at the banquet in a worthy manner, because they will all be there by God's grace through Christ. And so us enjoy and celebrate living in the Kingdom of Heaven, living under God's gracious reign. But also ask yourself, why not be dressed appropriately here in the kingdom. You don't have to wear a pink shirt, or clergy vestments to do that. All we need to do is to give God the love and honor through our words and deeds that He deserves. Amen.

