



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

11/22/2020 A.D. – The Last Sunday of the Church Year

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 95:1-7a)

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

² Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

³ For the LORD is a great God,

and a great King above all gods.

⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth;

the heights of the mountains are his also.

⁵ The sea is his, for he made it,

and his hands formed the dry land.

⁶ Oh come, let us worship and bow down;

let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

⁷ For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

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 25:31-46*

³¹[Jesus said:] “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³²Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. ³⁴Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of

the world. ³⁵For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ ⁴⁰And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

⁴¹“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴²For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Sermon – † *Preparation* † (*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

Thanksgiving

Wilson family - recovered after COVID-19

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

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

Healing

Gene (husband of N. Owens)- knee replacement surgery 11/23

Pat Krekeler - hospitalization

Wilson (son of Luke Viertel) - health issues

Angela Yuza - illness

Donald (brother of Carol Edwards) - hospitalized with COVID-19

Steve Hanchera - recovering after COVID-19

Linda Patten - recovering after hip replacement

Kent Zenor - recovering after second eye surgery

Darlene Eckert - recovering after broken leg

Aaron Moffett - recovering after eye surgery

Dave Christian - recovering after surgery

Kris Dunn - health issues

Shut-Ins

Wayne Schilling– at home

Mourning

Karen Pfeffer - mourning her uncle, Ray's death on 11/7

Bernice Stonewall - mourning her brother, Merle's, death on 10/31

Bonnie Bubke - mourning her son, Scott's, death on 10/27

Serving Our Country

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

Collect of the Day

Let us pray... Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Concluding Prayer

Almighty, everlasting God, Your Son has assured forgiveness of sins and deliverance from eternal death. Strengthen us by Your Holy Spirit that our faith in Christ may increase daily and that we may hold fast to the hope that on the Last Day we shall be raised in glory to eternal life; 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.



✠ *Preparation* ✠

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

On November 26 our nation will be celebrating Thanksgiving. Usually, along with a plethora of turkeys and pumpkin pies, Thanksgiving brings with it millions of miles of traveling. In the past it has been one of, if not the, busiest times of year in the air or on the road as people travel to see their friends and family. And with all of that traveling, comes a lot of preparation and planning. Not just for the people traveling, but also for the people who will be welcoming and hosting them. In years past, for my family this has meant doing a little extra cleaning around the house, planning meals, making sure people have a place to sleep, and brushing up on my current events for the inevitable political arguments that will happen.

But this year, for obvious reasons, things will be different for many, many Americans. In the midst of the pandemic, many people are choosing not to travel and not to gather together. And because of this, we might be tempted to think that there's no need for planning or preparation for guests to arrive this Thanksgiving. But our Scripture lesson today from Matthew 25 actually tells us that there is one person who is coming, and therefore plans and preparation are continuing on as they have for a long, long time.

In our Scripture reading, we are told of the arrival of Jesus Christ. Matthew writes of Jesus' teaching about His second coming to judge the living and the dead. Usually, Bible passages that focus on Judgment Day or Christ's return tell us to prepare for His return. We often hear how He will come like a thief in the night, how he will return like a king from a long journey, or how He'll show up in some other unexpected way. We are even given signs to know that Christ's return will be happening soon, so that we should prepare for His arrival.

But today, instead of us talking about how *we* are to prepare for His coming, we hear that Jesus has made plans for us when He returns. To those on his right hand, those who are faithful and counted righteous, Jesus says, “*Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world*”. Some of us might not be preparing to celebrate Thanksgiving as we have in the past, but God continues His plans and preparations, as He has since the “*foundation of the world*”. And while we may be missing the preparations of this week to bring about good food and good times with some of those whom we love, these blessings are truly nothing compared to the kingdom that Jesus has prepared for us out of His love and compassion for everyone.

Of course, not everyone believes this and many people often forget about this. Jesus’ Second Coming is often referred to as Judgment Day or the End of the World. Judgment Day, obviously because when Christ comes back He will judge the living and the dead. The End of the World, because it will be the end of things as we know them now. But when you mention the End of the World or even Judgment Day, most people either laugh the idea off or are simply too terrified to want to think about it.

It reminds me of teenagers that think they will live forever. At that age, many are unable or fail to see that our actions have consequences. If this is the case, then it could be said that our society as a whole, up until very recently, has lived as teenagers, thinking we were invincible. Sometimes this has led to buying things we could not afford, working half-heartedly at our jobs or in school. Looking back it seemed that many Americans were just sort of cruising on through life. Of course, today we know better, or at least we should. The pandemic and derecho have taught many of us that we and our loved ones are not invincible. We have seen the impact these events have had on our physical, mental and emotional health. The impact they have had on our economy and on our finances; the impact they have had on our education system, or social lives, and even our sports teams. In fact now, with the way things are going in the world today, many people may feel that they are facing a sort of “mini judgment day”.

As Christians, we should use this moment to remind ourselves of Christ’s return. There will be those who laugh thinking Christ will never come back as they live for themselves. But there will come a time when they will have to give an account. When Christ returns, they might be confused asking “When did we see you Lord?” And as they are thrown into the eternal fire, Jesus will no doubt tell them that whenever they did not help someone in need, they did not help their Lord. And when their hardened hearts ran after the “good life”, they turned their back on Him who gives eternal life.

But it is eternal life that awaits those of us who have faith in Christ as our Lord and Savior. For God did not prepare punishment for people from the foundation of the world. God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world. In eternity, Jesus did not even decide to save only some and condemn others. Our Lord lived and died for the sins of the world - for all people, and this was His plan from before the beginning.

Therefore, Christians can eagerly await Jesus’ return because of what He has prepared, regardless of what our plans and preparation look like this Thanksgiving or any time in our lives. In the Gospel of Matthew we read that Jesus gives this lengthy discussion on His return just days before His crucifixion. Everything that would continue to take place there on Golgotha and at the empty tomb had been planned and prepared by God from the foundation of the world. By what Jesus would do on Good Friday, He would prepare us for His Kingdom. For it was then that He took upon Himself the punishment we deserve, by dying on the cross. Now, with our faith in Him, we receive His righteousness. Every act of love and compassion that He has done, (feeding the

hungry, clothing the naked, and welcoming strangers) is now counted as yours. And so, His Kingdom, prepared from the foundation of the world, is yours as well.

Our Lord tells us that He prepared a kingdom for us to comfort us in times of trouble. Therefore, there is nothing that we Christians need to fear – not His return, not even death. He has promised that with your sins forgiven, you will be found at His right hand. You will receive the kingdom that He has prepared of you. How wonderful and comforting that no matter how our plans and preparations may have changed this week, or even this year, God’s plan of our salvation through Jesus is right on track. He is coming and your place is prepared. Amen.

