



## Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

### **The First Sunday After Christmas 2020 A.D.**

*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**

*(From Psalm 98)*

The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,  
**and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.**  
Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!  
**His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.**

The LORD has made known his salvation;  
**he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**  
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.  
**All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;  
**break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**  
**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*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 Apostles' Creed. Everyone else may continue the service as printed....*

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#### **Scripture Lesson**

*(Luke 2:22-40)*

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") <sup>24</sup>and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." <sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup>And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had

seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup>And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup>he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

<sup>29</sup>"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word;  
<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation <sup>31</sup>that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup>And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup>And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed <sup>35</sup>(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

<sup>36</sup>And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, <sup>37</sup>and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

**Sermon** – † **Waiting** † *(A copy is included at the end of this service.)*

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### **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
- Workers in the Church, here at Bethany and throughout the world

### **Healing**

- Kent Zenor - eye surgery on 12/28
- Dave Johnson - healing
- Robert (father of Chris Knudson) - hospitalization
- Pat Krekeler - recovering after hospitalization
- Andrew (grandson of Schumachers) - recovering after open heart surgery
- Jane (daughter of Bonnie Bubke) - recovering after surgery
- Del Block - recovering after COVID-19
- Noelle (relative of Larsons) - cancer
- Wayne (relative of Knutsons) - recovering after COVID-19
- Hazel (granddaughter of Kim Neuhaus) - health issues
- Linda Patten - recovering after hip replacement
- Aaron Moffett - recovering after eye surgery
- Dave Christian - recovering after surgery
- Kris Dunn - health issues

### **Shut-Ins**

- Darlene Eckert - at home

### **Mourning**

- Leisa Knudson - mourning the death of father, Bud, on 12/17
- Loved ones of Dee Block mourning her death on 12/16
- Linda Patten - mourning the death of friend, Doug, on 12/11
- Ronda Anderson - mourning the death of sister-in-law, Janet, on 12/11
- Larsons - mourning the death of friend, Steve, on 12/1

### **Serving Our Country**

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

## **Collect of the Day and Concluding Prayers**

Let us pray... O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

O God, by the patient endurance of Your only-begotten Son You beat down the pride of the old enemy. Help us to treasure rightly in our hearts what our Lord has borne for our sakes that, after His example, we may bear with patience those things that are adverse to us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

**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.**



✠ **Waiting** ✠

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

In our Gospel reading today, we are introduced to a man named Simeon who was waiting. Luke tells us that he was a righteous and devout man. Today, when we think of righteous or devout men and women, we tend to think of people who do the things that God wants us to do, or in some cases don't do the things He would forbid. What I mean is that today people are called righteous because of what they do - things like working at the church or helping the poor and sick. Or maybe a person is called righteous because she doesn't drink too much or is not rude or arrogant. While righteous people have these characteristics, it would be wrong to say they are righteous because of them, because the Bible clearly teaches that it is our faith that makes us righteous in God's eyes, not our own works.

This faith comes to us from God Himself. And thus, it's no surprise that when Luke tells us that Simeon is a righteous man, he tells us that the Holy Spirit is working in his life. The Holy Spirit had let him know that he would not die until he saw the one God would choose for the salvation of all people. And so, he was waiting. But at the particular time of our text, the Spirit led Simeon into the temple courts. It was there, in the temple courts that Simeon could finally stop waiting, as he saw God's only-begotten Son Jesus, who was Mary's son as well.

When Simeon sees Jesus, he essentially says, "Lord God, I can now die in peace because I have seen the salvation for every man, woman, and child that will ever live!" Of course, this peace that Simeon had was not the absence of trouble in Simeon's life – he knew that he was still going to depart this life or die! But he also knew that Jesus was his Savior. Because of Jesus, God would forgive him. The hostility between Simeon and God would be no more because God's wrath over his sin would be poured out on this little child. Jesus would take Simeon's sin to the cross and this all that he needed know to have peace with God.

Of course, not everyone at the time believed that Jesus was their Lord and Savior; nor does everyone today. This is why Simeon said to Mary that Jesus would be "*appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel.*" Those who believe in Christ as their Savior will be forgiven, saved, and one day raised from the dead. Those who reject Christ will be left with their sins and fall into God's wrath. But we are told that Simeon was a righteous man. And He was righteous because he believed in God's promises about Jesus while he waited.

As we come to the end of December it seems as if the year 2020 has, in many ways, been one of waiting. Because of the Coronavirus we have spent much of the year waiting for a vaccine.

Since there are now several of them that have been approved for use, many of us are now waiting to receive the vaccine. If we or loved ones have become sick from the virus, we waited for recovery. If we have suffered economically, we waited for businesses to reopen and for our government to negotiate aid and assistance. As we socially distance here at the church, we've been waiting until we can sing again, meet again in person again, or even waiting to have a cup of coffee or cocoa after our services. At home, many of us have been waiting to see friends and family, to go out to dinner, or even just to get out of the house.

Then the storm hit. Then, we had to wait for the power to come back on. The Internet to work again and the streets and roads to reopen. Tragically, many of us had to wait for insurance adjusters, structural engineers, or roofers to help us recover. Many more of us had to wait for help to remove debris from all of the trees that had fallen in our city.

But we should not forget that not all of the waiting was the result of bad things this year. Remember that God still poured out many of his blessing on us this year and let us rejoice with those who rejoice. For some waited for children or grandchildren to be born. Others waited for their wedding day to arrive or perhaps waited to graduate. Others waited for the Chiefs to win the Superbowl or the Dodgers to win the World Series. But whether good or bad, thinking about all of this waiting, if we were not patient people in 2019, it seems as if God has been trying to teach us a thing or two in 2020.

But by God's grace, we live on this side of the cross and have no need to wait for the consolation of Israel as Simeon was at the beginning of our text. (We know that Christ has come as our Lord and Savior and that He continues to come to us through His Word and sacraments.) Yet, if we are not waiting *for* the thing that Simeon did, let us always wait *as* Simeon did. Let us wait as righteous men and women, trusting in the promises that God has made to us.

This means that while we are waiting during the good times in life, we give glory and honor and praise and thanks to God. Doing so pleases our Lord and while our praise and thanks are never transactional, it only makes sense that if we are grateful for the good things God gives to us, He will be all the more willing to continue to bless us with His blessings.

And when we are waiting during the difficult times in life – waiting for a vaccine, a repair, to see family again or to receive help or assistance – wait as God's righteous people believing in His promises. Remember to wait as ones who have been forgiven because of your faith in Christ. This forgiveness and your faith are both gifts that God has given to you. It is not of your own doing, it is by God's grace alone. And it is with these gifts of faith and salvation that we can not only wait patiently for whatever we need or are expecting, but we can also wait as righteous men and women to the glory and honor of our God and the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.



I pray that all of you may have a very blessed New Year and I look forward to us being together again in 2021. – Pastor Erickson