



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

The Baptism of our Lord 2021 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.

Introit

(From Isaiah 42 and Psalm)

Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights.

I will tell of the decree:

The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.

Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession.

You shall break them with a rod of iron
and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

Now therefore, O kings, be wise;

be warned, O rulers of the earth.

Serve the LORD with fear,

and rejoice with trembling,

for his wrath is quickly kindled.

Blessèd are all who take refuge in him.

**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) under the Worship Resources tab and then continue with the Apostles’ Creed. Everyone else may continue the service as printed....

Scripture Lesson – Romans 6:1-11

¹What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism

into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Sermon † *Killed and Made Alive* † *(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

- Joy (golden retriever) being raised by the Goerdt's to be Bethany's comfort dog
- Outgoing church officers

Entrusting into God's Care

- Those suffering after the storm and during the pandemic
- The homeless & the un/underemployed

- Dee Rose - hospice care at Meth-Wick nursing facility
- Workers in the Church, here at Bethany and throughout the world

Healing

- Karen (relative of Carol Grimminger) - cancer
- Cindy (mother of Amy Diers) - recovering after surgery
- Jim (uncle of Nate Ackermann) - hospitalization
- Kent Zenor - recovering after eye surgery
- Dave Johnson - healing
- Pat Krekeler - recovering after hospitalization
- Aaron Moffett - recovering after eye surgery
- Dave Christian - recovering after surgery
- Kris Dunn - health issues

Shut-Ins

- Candi Engel - Garnet Place

Mourning

- Leisa Knudson - mourning the death of father, Bud, on 12/17
- Del Block - mourning the death of wife, Dee, on 12/16

Serving Our Country

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

Collect of the Day

Let us pray... Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; 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.



✠ ***Killed and Made Alive*** ✠

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

Our reading today from Romans is primarily concerned about dying. But here St. Paul is not writing about our physical death or even our spiritual death. Rather in Romans 6 Paul describes our dying to sin, and therefore through this death, we actually are given life – real, physical and spiritual life in Jesus’ name.

To fully grasp what Paul writes in Romans 6 we have to go back to Romans 5, specifically verse 20 where Paul writes, “*Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more!*” So now, Paul asks in 6:1, “*What shall we say then? Are we to continue to sin that grace may abound?*” It’s sort of like saying, “If God likes to forgive sin and I like to sin, we can help each other out!” And even though this sounds absolutely ridiculous, I believe that this is actually how many of us, if not think, then actually live. We may never say it, but many times we don’t care how we live or how much we sin because we tell ourselves that God loves us and will always forgive us. So why even bother resisting temptation? Well, it certainly is true that God loves us and that Christ’s blood on the cross covers the sin of the world...but, Paul would say that it is impossible for a Christian to want to see more sin in their life even if means more and more grace because...they are dead to sin.

When I was in 8th grade my hometown basketball team, the Detroit Pistons were on top of the basketball world, having won back to back championships. And one of my favorite players on the team was Dennis Rodman. Now today Dennis Rodman is known for all sorts of things. But back then he was a great basketball player, affectionately called “The Worm” by fans. Rodman was a Cinderella story - sweeping floors before he made it into the NBA. Always an underdog, he was an incredible defensive player and no one out hustled him on the court. I thought he was the best. I had his jersey and wore it when I played basketball. I tried to play like he did. And whenever I had the chance, I watched the Detroit Pistons play so I could see Dennis Rodman. And then, in 1993 he demanded to be traded.

Now at the time I didn’t understand the business aspect of the professional sports. All I knew is that my favorite player left my team. It was as if he didn’t care about the Pistons or all of the fans, including me. So, what was I to do? I wish I could say that I never watched him play again but being that he went on to be even more successful in Chicago (who was in the same conference with Detroit) I had to watch play against Detroit all of the time. But I wasn’t cheering for him and I certainly was not wearing his jersey. He wasn’t on my team and therefore the relationship, if you can call it that, had, in a way, died. And therefore, I didn’t want anything more to do with The Worm.

There our times in our lives when we sort of cheer for sin. We like it. It’s fun. We think that we can sin because God won’t notice, won’t care, or won’t hold it against us – right? After all, God loves to forgive! But sin isn’t on our side! Sin is everything that our enemy tries to have us do against God’s will. Sin pulls us away from God, which is exactly what the devil wants. Now unfortunately sin isn’t going anywhere, it’s not going to be traded to another team. But Paul tells us that we have nothing to do with sin and we certainly don’t cheer it on to be even more prevalent

today because we are dead to sin. And this death happened when God brought us on to His team in Holy Baptism.

If you have been baptized then God did something wonderful to you when that water was poured over you (or you were submerged) in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. It wasn't a symbol of anything. Nor was it some sort of mystical experience. Nor was it anything that you had done. Rather through the working of the water and the Word, in Holy Baptism God by His grace killed you. That's right. By His grace, He killed you. Because as Paul says in Romans 6, when you were baptized, you were baptized into Christ Jesus and His death. Through baptism God brought you onto the team, He linked you with His own Son, Jesus Christ. And having been brought together through baptism, you were also with Him when He died. In baptism God killed you because He put you together with Jesus who died on the cross. And now you're dead to sin.

That which was once your master, sin whose orders you once had to obey, no longer means anything to you. The early church father John Chrysostom likens it to a drill sergeant giving orders to a dead soldier. No matter how much the officer screams and shouts, the corpse won't budge an inch. That is how sin is with us. Chrysostom says, "*Being dead to sin means not obeying it any more. Baptism has made us dead to sin once and for all...we no longer obey it but remain unmoved by it, as a corpse does.*"

As Christians in America today, we need to take seriously this idea of no longer obeying sin. As if salvation and honoring our Lord Jesus Christ were not enough motivation to truly die to sin, we by now all should be very aware of the damage that sin can do to even a country as great as ours. It goes without saying that the issues that divide this country are serious and cause deep divisions. And while they way forward to a more perfect Union, and not division, may remain unclear, one thing is certain. And that is if God's redeemed people in this country refuse to follow our Lord Jesus Christ and His teachings; if God's people who have been saved by nothing they have done but only by the blood Christ; if God's people refuse to die to sin, then not only will our Lord be dishonored through our actions and lives, but our Republic will not be able to withstand this division that comes from within. Therefore, while none of us may be able to influence the events on a national level, let each one of us commit ourselves in our personal lives, in our families, and in our communities to truly die to sin and love those around us, even those who disagree with us or who have wronged us in the past!

This does not mean that we will stop sinning on this side of the grave. Or that when we do sin, it means there is or was something wrong with our baptism or God working through it. No, God has truly united you with Christ when you were baptized. This is not of your own doing, but the work of God who has not failed in doing it. But rather, when we do sin, we are to blame, as we push God away from us. We in essence say to God, "I don't want to do it your way, I'll make myself my own little god." We all do this, but praise the Lord that when we turn from this type of sin, or repent, God is always, as we know, ready to forgive and welcome us back.

So, remember that when we were united with Christ in baptism, He killed us because we were united with Him in His death. But of course we know that Jesus didn't stay dead. Jesus isn't in a grave or a tomb this day. Rather He is seated at the right hand of God the Father, having been raised from the dead on Easter. So, our story doesn't stop with just being united with Christ in baptism or in death. It doesn't just stop with dying to sin. It actually never stops, as being united with Jesus in a death like His, we will certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. Amen.