



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

January 24, 2020 A.D. – 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

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 62:5-8

⁵For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence,
for my hope is from him.

⁶He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress;
I shall not be shaken.

⁷On God rests my salvation and my glory;
my mighty rock, my refuge is God.

⁸Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him;
God is a refuge for us.

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 – I Corinthians 7:29-35

²⁹This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

³²I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. ³³But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, ³⁴and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. ³⁵I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.

Sermon – † Silos or Wheels † *(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

- Annual Congregational meeting today

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

- Faye Sieck - health issues
- Gerard - COVID-19
- Ron, Linda, Amanda (relatives of Heitlands) - COVID-19
- Dan (nephew of Bonnie Bubke) - recovering after surgery
- 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

- Ann Meyer - Terrace Glen, Marion

Mourning

- Rick Heller - mourning the death of mother, Ramona on 1/14
- 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

- Taylor & Charlie (grandsons of Kim Neuhaus) - serving in U.S. Armed Forces
- Harrison (son of Rob & Faye Sieck)- serving in U.S. Armed Forces

Collect of the Day

Let us pray... Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; 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

Almighty God, You have given us this good land as our heritage. Grant that we remember Your generosity and constantly do Your will. Bless our land with honest industry, truthful education, and an honorable way of life. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil course of action. Grant that we, who came from many nations with many different languages, may become a united people. Support us in defending our liberties, and give those to whom we have entrusted the authority of government the spirit of wisdom, that there may be justice and peace in our land. When times are prosperous, may our hearts be thankful, and in troubled times do not let our trust in You fail; 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.



✠ *Silos or Wheels* ✠

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

One of my first memories of moving to Iowa is driving down Interstate 80 on my way to Cedar Rapids. It was sometime just after I crossed the Mississippi River when saw a grain silo up ahead on the horizon. Having just come from the Susquehanna Valley of NE Pennsylvania with its’ hilly and twisty roads, I was surprised and somewhat amused that after ten minutes of driving on the highway – I could still see the same silo on the horizon! Of course, there are thousands of other silos in Iowa that are used to store all sorts of bulk materials. And though silos can store everything from corn, to coal, to woodchips, it is my understanding that most silos are designed to really hold only one thing at a time. It won’t work if you try to put corn and coal in the same silo, you have to keep things separate.

In some ways, it seems that many of us live our lives with a lot of silos in them. What I mean is that we all have different areas of our lives. We have our family life. Our work or our school lives. There is a part of our lives for being citizens in our community and our nation. A part of our lives for shopping and all the fun we like to have. And, of course, for all of us there is always our church lives. But many times, instead of all of these things blending together, we often keep them separate – each in their little silos. The people at work may not be the people we see at church. How we act with our family, is not how we behave out in the community. How generous we are with our money when we are shopping, is different than when it comes time to be charitable.

The problem with this type of “silo living” is that too often it leaves Jesus out of so many areas of our lives. Jesus is there in our church silo, but when we go to work, He’s nowhere to be found. We get so caught up in our social lives or having fun, that worshipping Jesus is left at home when we go on vacation or spend time with friends. Family time or when we’re at home becomes so filled with errands, cleaning, television, or “me time”, that time for devotions falls by the wayside. If your not convinced and still think that Jesus is every silo of your life, just look for Him the next time you discuss politics with someone who disagrees with you. And when Jesus is just in our “church silos”, that means He’s not guiding the other areas of our lives. And if He’s not guiding those areas, than someone or something else is, which is never good.

St. Paul knew that when he wrote: “*The appointed time has grown very short,*” he says. “*From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away*”. In this short passage from I Corinthians, the Holy Spirit is calling us to live every day with Jesus and for Him, no matter what part of life that might be, because “the time is short”.

Now, Paul is not trying to predict when Jesus will come back on Judgement Day here in this text. He may have believed that Jesus’ return would come soon, but that is not the focus of this text. Rather Paul is emphasizing that the time we have left before Jesus returns is a critical time. It’s a time to live a certain way. He is calling us to live for Jesus in the time we have left.

Of course, Jesus will return on Judgment Day and that day will be fantastic for Christians. Sickness will be gone. Evil destroyed forever in hell. No violence. No war. No injustice. Instead,

the dead in Jesus will rise from the grave to everlasting life and a new creation. Today, we live in that hope because Jesus Himself has already risen from the dead. On the cross, He took upon Himself our sin, and along with it, our sickness, our evil, our violence and war. And then on Easter He came out of the grave with life, glory and honor. This resurrection gives us a glimpse of our lives to come on that great and glorious day.

But we don't know when that day will be any more than Paul did. So we wait, and as we wait, we live with Jesus in every area of our lives. How do we live that way? Listen to Paul: Live as though you were not married. Now of course, Paul is not calling for us to get rid of our families. Elsewhere in I Corinthians 7, he says we don't sin if we do get married or if we do not. But rather he is telling us not to live as if our family is all important. I know this may sound strange to some, but just think of all the families that were together 100 or 200 years ago. Those days are now only memories, perhaps, and all the mothers and fathers and brothers and sisters are in the grave. Death tore those families apart and time moved on. What Paul is saying is that there is more than family in this life and if we truly love our families, we will be ready for that Last Day. We simply cannot leave Jesus out of homes.

Paul also tells us to live as if you are not rejoicing or mourning. Of course, Paul is not calling for us to live emotionally detached lives like robots. We will rejoice when couples are married, when children are born and when they are brought to the baptismal font. And there will be times when we will also mourn in this life as well. But our emotions will change or fade as time passes. And we don't just live for the joys in life, nor are we destroyed by the sadness. There is more than those times in life, as our life with Christ endures forever and He calls us to live for Him right now.

Paul is also calling for us to buy as though we had nothing. Of course, Paul is not saying that we should live in poverty or give away all our possessions. We will go to the grocery store and buy food when we are able. We will pay our taxes and other bills. Buy clothes and other items that we need or maybe even want. But all of that stuff will one day be gone. We brought nothing into the world and will not be able to take anything out of it. So Paul is saying that there is much more to life than what we buy or what we own. But our life with Christ endures forever and each one of us is called to live for Him in this moment. We simply cannot leave Jesus out what we buy, keep, and give away.

So instead of living in silos, perhaps it would be better to live as if life were a wheel – like a bicycle wheel. At the center, or the hub of the wheel, is Jesus. Everything revolves around Jesus and He is the center of our lives. The spokes of the wheel would be the various parts of our lives that we live each day. So not only is Jesus the center of our lives with everything revolving around Him, but every part of our life is connected to Him. And every part is connected to the parts of our lives through Him.

Can you see how this would work? When we work and study, we do so in ways that Jesus would want us to live and this would benefit our families and communities. Likewise, our money is not our own, so the decisions on how we spend it come from our relationship with Jesus as well. How we live as citizens in this country and members of our families – begins with being God's forgiven and free people through Jesus Christ and goes out into every part of lives and indeed the world!

And so instead of living our lives in silos, as Christians, we live our lives as wheels. Our lives are wheels with Jesus the hub and every spoke in our lives connected to Him. Because truth be told, Jesus could come back today or a thousand years from now – no one knows. But the amount of time we have left in this life is not the important question. It is how will we live in that

time. And in this time right now, by God's grace, we know to live life as wheel, with Jesus Christ at the center. Amen.

