



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

The First Sunday in Lent – February 21, 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.

Psalm

Psalm 25:1-10

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²**O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.**

³Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴**Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.

⁶**Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

⁸**Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

⁹He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

¹⁰**All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.**

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

Mark 1:9-15

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.
¹⁰And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

¹²The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

Sermon – † *Who Is Inside?* † *(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

- Nolan (son of Robby and Andrea Russman) - baptized on 2/18
- Dave Johnson - healing after procedure

Entrusting into God’s Care

- Those suffering after the storm and during the pandemic
- The homeless & the unemployed
- Workers in the Church, here at Bethany and throughout the world

Healing

- Elaine Cook - recovering after surgery
- Dale Stonewall - recovering at home after surgery
- Pat Krekeler - recovering after hospitalization
- Linda Patten - recovering after surgery
- Brenda Heims - recovering after surgery
- Jill (sister of Bridget Rinderknecht) - health issues
- Faye Sieck - health issues
- 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) - recovering at rehab facility
- Kent Zenor - recovering after eye surgery
- Dave Christian - recovering after surgery
- Kris Dunn - health issues

Shut-Ins

- Wayne Schilling - at home

Mourning

- Loved ones of Dee Rose - mourning her death on 2/12
- Dave Dohrmann - mourning the death of mother, VaDonna 2/5
- Loved ones of Ann Meyer - mourning her death on 1/23

Serving Our Country

- Tailor & 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... O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; 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 and everlasting God, through Your Son You have promised us forgiveness of sins and everlasting life. Govern our hearts by Your Holy Spirit that in our daily need, and especially in all time of temptation, we may seek Your help and, by a true and lively faith in Your Word, obtain all that You have promised; through the same 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.



✠ *Who Is Inside?* ✠

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

In the Bible we find there are two types of temptations: there is a temptation for good and a temptation for evil. The first is from God and is used to strengthen our faith in Him, such as we see when God asks Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac. Often thought of as more of a testing than temptation, this should never be thought of as God leading people into sin. For Paul writes in I Corinthians 10:13, “*God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.*” Looking at this verse we also realize that those who resist and overcome temptation do so only by the grace of God, and not by some special strength within themselves. The second type of temptation in the Bible however, is not from God and it is not for good. The temptation for evil comes from the sinful world around us, our own sinful nature, and from the devil. And it is this type of temptation that we come across in our Gospel reading from Mark today.

Unlike Matthew’s and Luke’s account of Jesus being tempted, the account that we read today from Mark’s Gospel is rather brief. In just two verses, we are told that after His baptism, Jesus is driven out into the wilderness and tempted by Satan for 40 days. It seems that Mark, being inspired by the Holy Spirit of course, did not think that it was very important to mention that types of temptation that Jesus faced or how He overcame them. This means that, at least for St. Mark, Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness was not a template or an example for us to follow. Rather, hearing that Jesus overcame the temptation of the devil; hearing that Jesus did what Adam and Eve could not do; hearing that Jesus did in the wilderness what Moses and the nation of Israel could not do; we are reminded of Jesus’ power and might as the Son of God and given just a small taste of Jesus’ victories on the cross (that has already happened) and on the Last Day, that will certainly happen when He comes again. And we, as God’s people, need to see these victories of Jesus, especially in the midst of our many failures in this sinful world. And we do fail.

In his book, *Who Speaks For God*, Chuck Colson describes watching an interview on “60 Minutes” with Auschwitz survivor Yehiel Dinur. Dinur was one of the key witnesses during the 1961 trial of the infamous Nazi leader Adolph Eichmann, who was largely responsible for organizing the Holocaust that killed millions of innocent people. During the interview, a film clip from that trial was shown of the moment that Dinur came face to face with Eichmann for the first time since being sent to Auschwitz, almost 20 years earlier. Looking at Eichmann, Dinur stopped cold, began to sob uncontrollably and eventually fainted. Was Dinur overcome by hatred? By fear? By terrible memories? Chuck Colson says, “No”. Rather as Dinur explained in the interview,

he all at once realized that Eichmann was not a godlike army officer that sent so many people to their deaths. Rather Eichmann was an ordinary man. “I was afraid about myself,” said Dinur. “I saw that I am capable to do this. I am...exactly like he.” “60 Minutes” summed up Dinur’s idea by saying, “Eichmann is in all of us”.

That is a horrifying statement. But as frightening as that is, it shouldn’t be all that surprising. “Eichmann” is in all of us, because sin is in all of us. This is clearly shown by our susceptibility to temptation. We are tempted to steal, because we are thieves. We are tempted to kill because we are murderers. We are tempted to adultery because we are adulterers. James says, *“Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.”* The fact that are tempted proves that we are sinful.

Therefore, we shouldn’t be surprised that there is a little bit of Adam and Eve in all of us, especially when we disobey God’s clear commandments. A little bit of Cain inside of us when we become jealous of others or fight with our families. A little bit of David inside of us when we look at things we shouldn’t or try to cover up our sins by sinning even more. A little bit Peter when we deny our faith in Christ to save face or save our skin. A little bit of Judas inside of us when we turn against God for selfish material gain or whatever reason. Knowing that all of this sin is inside of us can lead to misery and despair. But for the Christian, there is more than sin inside of us. There is also our Lord Jesus who has conquered sin and the devil and his temptations.

When asked how he resisted the temptations of the devil, Martin Luther replied, “When the devil comes knocking upon the door of my heart and asks, ‘Who lives here?’ the dear Lord Jesus goes to the door and says, ‘Martin Luther used to live here, but he has moved out. Now I live here.’” You see, when Christ fills our lives and our hearts, there is no room for Satan and temptation.

Hebrews 4:15 says, *“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.”* The fact that Jesus could be tempted in a very real way and remain sinless is one of the great mysteries of the Faith. But God’s Word tells us that Jesus was not only tempted, but that He overcame temptation and defeated the devil in the wilderness, on the cross, and will completely and finally defeat Satan when He returns again. Therefore, we have hope. And we have peace. And we have comfort - in the midst of our temptations, even when we sinfully fail in resisting them. Because having been united with Christ in Baptism; and being with His true body and blood at the altar and Him filling our hearts and lives with His Word – His victory belongs to us.

And so when we are tempted today, (not tested as Abraham), but tempted like Eve, or like David, Peter, or Judas – remember that we are tempted because we are sinners. But also know that whether or not we are able to resist the temptations of the evil one ourselves, know that Jesus already has. And with faith and trust in Him as our Lord and Savior, we are forgiven and have His victory of the devil and death. Therefore, make room in your hearts for Jesus. Let Him come to you through His Word and through His Sacraments. For the more that Jesus is in your heart, the less room there is for temptation and evil. But also, when He comes, He brings with Him forgiveness and eternal life. Amen.

