



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

February 28th, 2021 A.D. – The Second Sunday of Lent

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.

Litany

(From *Psalms 25 & 115*)

P Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love,

G for they have been from of old.

You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD!

He is their help and their shield.

The LORD has remembered us; he will bless us;

he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron;

he will bless those who fear the LORD,

both the small and the great.

We will bless the LORD

from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD!

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 8:27-38*)

²⁷And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸And they told him, "John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets." ²⁹And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ." ³⁰And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

³¹And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.

³²And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and

seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

³⁴And he called to him the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it. ³⁶For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? ³⁷For what can a man give in return for his life? ³⁸For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

Sermon – † *Suffering and Glory* † (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

- The Sharp family and all other missionaries sharing God’s Word

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

- Al Bachman - recovering after hospitalization
- Blaine (friend of Bev Linman) - health issues
- 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
- Faye Sieck - health issues
- Kent Zenor - recovering after eye surgery
- Dave Christian - recovering after surgery
- Kris Dunn - health issues

Shut-Ins

- Candi Engel - Garnet Place

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 God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; 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

O Lord, merciful Father, sustain and comfort all those who suffer from mental illness. Do not allow the evil one to trouble them, but provide them with people who, in wisdom and love, will minister to them in their need. Strengthen them and their families in the knowledge of Your redeeming love so that they may evermore look to You for rescue and help; 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.



† *Suffering and Glory* †

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

Many people believe that our text today, Mark 8:27-38, may be the most important verses in Mark’s entire Gospel. And the key idea behind all of these verses is quite simple – suffering must come before glory. This was the case for our Lord Jesus Christ. And it always has been and always will be the case for His disciples and His church.

Previously in the Gospel of Mark, Jesus had been primarily focusing upon His divine identity as the Messiah – “Messiah” being the Hebrew word for the Greek “Christ” – both meaning “the anointed”. It seems as if He wanted to prove that He was the Son of God sent to deliver God’s people. And so we see Jesus defeating unclean spirit and demons in Mark 1. We see Jesus’ power over sickness in Mark 6. We see Jesus’ victories over sin, fallen creation, and even death – all before we get to chapter 8. And it seems as if these great victories over the enemies of God’s people, as well as a lot of Jesus’ teaching, had their intended effect. When Jesus asked the disciples, “*But who do you say that I am?*”, Peter (most likely speaking for all the disciples) said, “*You are the Christ*”.

But even though Jesus proved His divinity and that He was the Christ by miracles and His teaching, He would not be the type of Christ that people were expecting. Less than 100 years before Jesus was born, there was a Jewish writing called *The Psalms of Solomon* that described what many thought the Messiah would be like. It asked God to help the Christ/Messiah to “*destroy the unrighteous rulers; to purge Jerusalem from gentiles who trample her to destruction; in wisdom and in righteousness to drive out the sinners from their inheritance...*” This type of expectation is exactly why Jesus told Peter and others to be quiet about what they had seen or believed. Jesus was not going to be that type of Messiah. He was going to do something completely unexpected and far greater than purging Jerusalem of gentiles.

But with the exception of the Transfiguration, Mark 8:30 is the last time in Mark’s Gospel that Jesus tells the disciples not to say anything about Him. And this is because in the verse that follows, Jesus lays it all out. He now begins to clearly teach the very important lessons of what kind of Messiah He will be and what it will mean to be a disciple of this Messiah. Mark 8:31 says, “*And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.*”

Contrary to the appearances of His victories over the demons by driving them out, or His triumph over death by raising Jairus’ daughter, the real reason that Jesus came as the Messiah was

to suffer and die and rise again. And this was so that He would not only be THE Messiah, but that He could also be OUR Savior. Paul says in Romans 5:9-10, “*Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.*” Because Christ has risen from the dead, all of us who look to Him as our Savior can also look forward to eternal life. But for Christ to be raised in glory, He first had to die. The suffering of the cross had to come before the glory of the resurrection.

And while those of us who live on this side of the empty tomb may be familiar with that idea, it was shocking for the disciples. Which is why Jesus then tells them, and the crowds what it means to be a disciple. He says, “*If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me*” (8:34).

To deny oneself is really nothing more than simply following the First Commandment – *You shall have no other gods*. It means that you take yourself out of the selfish position of making yourself your own little “god” and make Jesus the center of your life, who gave up His own rights and privileges to suffer and bear our sins. In a world that constantly feeds our selfish natures to always do whatever is best just for ourselves, this was and remains a radical idea. But as Jesus says, why gain the whole world, but lose your soul?

Think of it like this. If someone were to offer you a billion dollars as a free gift, would you take it? I think that most of us would. But what if there was the stipulation that to get the billion dollars, you would have to spend the rest of your life in solitary confinement in prison? Now I know that most of you are thinking that you would make that sacrifice so that you could leave the money for your loved ones. So let’s say that you could have the billion dollars, but couldn’t give it to anyone or buy anything for anyone, and would still have to spend the rest of your life in prison? Would anyone do that? I don’t think so. And yet, how many people today neglect their faith in God to gain a few worldly possessions that are worth nowhere near a billion dollars, and yet run the very real risk of spending an eternity in hell?!?!

So, deny yourself, that is, stop your selfish idolatry and let Jesus be your Lord and Savior. And this may mean that you will have to suffer. Jesus says, “*If anyone would follow me...let him take up His cross.*” For Simon of Cyrene this literally meant carrying a cross. But for most disciples this means suffering anything because one is a believer in Christ. Therefore, “taking up our cross” doesn’t mean just to suffer, it means to suffer for Jesus. And this type of “cross” is never easy, but it is for every disciple, including us today. For Jesus told the crowds this. Denying oneself and taking up your cross is not just for a few, special, would-be leaders in the Church. It is for everyone - every disciple.

And every disciple can do this. Like the disciples in the Gospels, we will never do all that Jesus commands perfectly. But we do have the help of the Holy Spirit and the love of God to motivate all of us to continue to grow in our lives of faith. And we also Jesus - His love and His teachings that showed us His cross came before His resurrection. And this reminds and encourages us, that because He suffered, died and rose again, the “crosses” that we take up will always be followed by the glory He won for us on His.

And now, may the peace of God that surpasses all understanding keep your hearts and minds forever in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

