



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

The Third Sunday in Lent – 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 other parts of the service 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 69*

P For zeal for your house has consumed me,
C and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.
Deliver me from sinking in the mire;
let me be delivered from my enemies and from the deep waters.
Let not the flood sweep over me, or the deep swallow me up,
or the pit close its mouth over me.
Answer me, O LORD, for your steadfast love is good;
according to your abundant mercy, turn to me.

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 Nicene Creed. Everyone else may continue the service as printed....

Scripture Lesson – *Exodus 20:1-17*

¹And God spoke all these words, saying,

²"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

³"You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

⁸“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹²“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³“You shall not murder.

¹⁴“You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵“You shall not steal.

¹⁶“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”

Sermon – † *The Law Is For Us* † (A copy is included at the end of this service.)

The Nicene’ Creed

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life † of the world to come. 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
- Linda Patten - recovering after surgery

Entrusting into God's Care

- Barbara (mother of Jim Heitland) - hospice 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 at Cottage Grove 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
- 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

- Nadine Wax - at home

Mourning

- Nate Ackerman - mourning the death of his uncle, Jim on 2/22
- Loved ones of Dee Rose - mourning her death on 2/12
- Dave Dohrmann - mourning the death of mother, VaDonna 2/5

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

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; 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 times 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.



✠ *The Law Is For Us* ✠

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

I think that we can all agree that we are living in a time when the Word of the God is not very popular with many people in the world, or even in our community. The authority and importance of Scripture seems to be attacked in many ways on an almost daily basis. Nevertheless, for our enlightenment let us turn to the inspired, inerrant Word of God delivered to us by prophets, apostles, and evangelists.

Today's reading from Exodus begins with the children of Israel gathered around Mount Sinai. God had descended upon the mountain in fire. The mountain trembled and God called Moses to come and meet with Him. God gave him words that we heard in today's lesson: "*And God spoke all these words, saying, 'I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me'*" (vv 1-3).

It is easy to see here how God cared for His people by giving them the Ten Commandments. In the first three commandments, God spoke of the people's relationship with Him. Commandments 4-10 would then govern their relationship with each other. The Commandments

were later summarized by Moses saying, “*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might*” (Deut 6:5). This Law would guide them as they entered the new land that God was giving them. They would live as His people, and He would bless them. God gave the Law for the good of His people.

Therefore the Law was to have an important role in the lives of God’s people. It told them that God wanted them to turn away from things that were worshiped by the other people they would encounter. As He gave the Law, God declared that He was a “jealous God”, which may sound strange today, but it meant He wanted His people solely for Himself. This would be for the good of the people. For worshipping any false god or created being or image would only sever the relationship that God had established and would cause their loss.

God aimed to shield His children from such loss and tragedy. He established the Law as a curb or as a wall of sorts – a restraint to hold back the influence of Satan and the world so that discipline might be maintained against wild, disobedient people. And God didn’t just give this Law to Israel. At Sinai, they had formally received it from the mouth and hand of God. But this Law had actually been received previously as we are told it was written on the hearts of all people. At creation, the Law was given, the same Law to love God with all our hearts and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Like the children of Israel, we know it’s wrong to hurt or harm our neighbor in his body. We know we should befriend those in need. We know we should respect our parents, elders, and other authorities placed over us. We know we should not take our neighbor’s property; rather we should help her improve and protect her property.

Yet, this knowledge of the Law did not prevent the Israelites from sinning against God. Soon after they received the Law, they again fell into sin. They disobeyed His will for them and therefore His Law condemned them! They were in the same condition as the rest of the world: sinful from the time of conception.

Today, we must ask, “What does the Word of God’s Law say to us?” It shouldn’t take very long before we find that the Law accuses! It condemns. We’ve broken all the Commandments repeatedly! The Law serves as a mirror to show us what we look like and it isn’t pretty! Try as hard as we might, we cannot fulfill the Law’s righteous demands, nor can we make payment for our sins.

St. Paul writes: “*For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me*” (Romans 7:18-20). There is no doubt about it – we’re sinful. The Law of God tells us what we should do, how we can please God and care for those around us, but the sin in us rises up and does evil. The Law declares us sinners, sinners who are powerless to save ourselves from the just penalty of the Law.

However, out of God’s great love and mercy, He has not only given us His Law, but He has also given us His Son! Jesus came into this world and did what Israel and we ourselves could not do. He obeyed the Law for us and took its punishment upon Himself so that we might be spared of God’s anger and wrath. St. Paul vividly declares this: “*There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.*”

Of course, the Law is not abolished by Christ. The Law has an ongoing significance in the world. Jesus said, “*until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished*” (Matthew 5:18). The Law still applies; the Law still has power to

curb our desire to sin. It still has power to accuse our guilty consciences. But the Law also has the power to teach our new selves, born of water and the Spirit; the new self that has been redeemed by Christ's sacrifice and now desires to follow the Lord's precepts – it has the power to teach this new self the way of sanctification and godly living. The Law provides a “*training in righteousness*” (2 Timothy 3:16) in the kinds of works that are called good.

For us Christians, the Law no longer condemns, for Christ came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets. He has fulfilled all righteousness for us and taken our punishment. Now, by His sacrifice and by the power of the Holy Spirit establishing faith in us, we can by faith live as God's servants. No better guide for living has ever been given than the Ten Commandments, which God gave for the enlightenment of His people. And because of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we walk in God's commands, and He rejoices over us. He deals with us in mercy, showing His steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love Him and keep His commandments. Amen.

