



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

March 14th, 2020 – The Fourth Sunday in 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 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 *Psalm 107:1-9*

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!

² **Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble**

³ and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west,

from the north and from the south.

⁴ Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to a city to dwell in;

⁵ **hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.**

⁶ Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.

⁷ **He led them by a straight way till they reached a city to dwell in.**

⁸ Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man!

⁹ **For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.**

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 Lessons

Numbers 21:4-9

⁴ From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. ⁵ And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." ⁶ Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷ And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." ⁹ So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

John 3:14-21

¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹ But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

Sermon – † *He Came, He Saw, He Saved* † (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 the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

Maren Elm - recovering at home after surgery

Tammy (great-niece of Bonnie Bubke) -radiation and chemo

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 - health issues

Brenda Heims - health issues

Faye Sieck - health issues

Kent Zenor - recovering after eye surgery

Dave Christian - recovering after surgery

Kris Dunn - health issues

Karen Steffen - cancer diagnosis (mother of Brett Steffen)

Shut-Ins

Del Block– Summit Pointe, Marion

Mourning

Betty Hein– mourning the death of her brother, Harold, 3/6

Nate Ackerman - mourning the death of his uncle, Jim on 2/22

Loved ones of Dee Rose - mourning her death on 2/12

Serving Our Country

Taylor & Charlie (grandsons of Kim Neuhaus) - serving in U.S.

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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

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.



✠ *He Came, He Saw, He Saved* ✠

We focus our attention today on John 3:14-17. *And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have everything their heart desires. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but do whatever feels right. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might feel good and be entertained through Him.*

I hope and pray that all of you immediately knew this is NOT what Jesus said or what John was inspired by the Spirit to write in the Gospel account that bears his name. However, while I think that most of you did, I also believe that all of us at times live as if it was indeed part of God's Holy Word. We are constantly tempted to go through life with the misunderstanding that God is supposed to give us, His faithful people, whatever we want. Or that we can do whatever we want and He will simply affirm whatever thoughts, words, or actions that we have. But of course, that isn't the way it works.

Just look at the reading from the book of Numbers today. The people of Israel had been freed from hundreds of years of slavery in Egypt. God not only delivered them out of that land of

bondage, but also provided for all their needs as they made their way through the wilderness and to the Promised Land. And what did the people do in response? They complained! They were mad that they had to go around the land of Edom. They asked things like, “Why do we have to be here in the wilderness?” or “Why do we have to eat this disgusting food?” And more than just complaining, they really showed their lack of faith and trust in God as they sinned. So, God punished their sin by sending serpents among the people, killing many. But even then, God provided a way for His people to be saved through faith. God had Moses make a serpent and lift up on a pole in the midst of the people. And though it would not make any sense, and though no clinical trials were completed at the time – God promised that whoever was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze serpent Moses lifted up – would live.

Today, we know all what God has done for us. Literally, everything that we have and enjoy in this world has been given to us or created by Him. Not only does He give us our clothes and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouses and children, and all that we have, He also richly and daily provides us with that we need to support this body and life. He defends us against all danger and guards and protects us from all evil. And all of this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us.

And what is our response to such love, mercy, and grace? Don't we often complain? Maybe not directly, but when we sinfully covet our neighbor's spouse, or their car, or their cell phone, or their whatever...isn't that really complaining about the One who has given us what we do have? And despite all that God has done for us, don't we often exert our own will and desires over His? We know the commandments, maybe we can't list them all off in order (though we should be able to!) but we know that we are to love God and love our neighbor. And yet how many other things do we love more than either of our neighbor or God? And if we do recognize our sin and actually feel guilty about it, then we try to justify our sin; tell ourselves there must be something wrong with that church that pointed out our sin; or maybe believe that the Law of God is just not quite up to date with the current times in which we live.

Now when we commit these, or any other sins for that matter, what happens is we elevate something in our lives over and above God. And when that happens, we have an idol. We have something that we fear, love, and trust in more than God. And make no mistake about it, God will not let such idolatry go unpunished.

But even though we have all grumbled in the wilderness despite all that God has done for us; even though we all have our own little false gods that we lift up in our lives; even though we all sin - God still loves us. And He doesn't love us by looking the other way when we sin. He doesn't love us by changing His Law to justify our actions or desires. John writes in his Gospel, *“This is how God loved the world. He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”* That is how God loves you. By seeing you in your sin and giving His only beloved Son Jesus to suffer and die in your place. And now whoever looks to Him for salvation from their sin will not be condemned, but have eternal life. That is God's love for you and every person.

The fact of the matter is that Jesus came into this world in order to save you, because He and the Father and the Holy Spirit love you despite of your sin. This is not just Good News, this is the best news. Because if Jesus did not do this, if He only came to make us rich or to make sure we all have a good time, we would still be lost in our sin and left face to face with God's anger. But Jesus came to save us from sin and He took God's anger and wrath for our sin upon Himself on the cross!

What a tragedy that people not only don't know this, but many choose to continue in the darkness of their sin and reject this Good News. They don't want to hear the Gospel or to have the Church be a place where it is freely proclaimed to all people. And so, we, the Church, must proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and baptize all the nations of the world and take and eat and drink the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. Because if we don't share Gospel, and if the Church is not the place where people are baptized and receive the Sacrament of the Altar, then we'll have a lot of people who feel really good about themselves, right up until the Last Day. But those who believe in Jesus, those who trust in Him for their salvation, need not worry about their sin or God's anger over it. For God's own Word clearly tells us that Jesus has come, and that He came to save you.

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

