



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

The Fifth 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 *Psalm 119:9-16*

⁹ How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.

¹⁰ **With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments!**

¹¹ I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

¹² **Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes!**

¹³ With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth.

¹⁴ **In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches.**

¹⁵ I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.

¹⁶ **I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.**

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 – *Mark 10:35-45*

³⁵ And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” ³⁶ And he said to them, “What do you want me to do for you?” ³⁷ And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” ³⁸ Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?” ³⁹ And they said to him, “We are able.” And Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, ⁴⁰ but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.” ⁴¹ And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. ⁴² And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ⁴³ But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all.

⁴⁵For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Sermon – ✠ *Your Servant, Your Savior* ✠ (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

Entrusting into God's Care

- Darrel (father of Janet Hoech) - hospice 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

- Nancy Owens - health issues
- Karen (mother of a Bethany friend) - cancer
- Maren Elm - recovering after surgery
- Tammy (relative 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

Shut-Ins

- Larry & Sharon Easler - 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

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

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and 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 God, You resist the proud and give grace to the humble. Grant us true humility after the likeness of Your only Son that we may never be arrogant and prideful and thus provoke Your wrath but in all lowliness be made partakers of the gifts of Your grace; 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.



✠ Your Servant, Your Savior ✠

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

When I hear the word “servant” I tend to think of something like the show *Downton Abby* that was on PBS years ago. On that show there was a British family who lived in a large house or manor, that was tended to by a number of servants such as butlers, maids, chauffeurs and cooks. And when I think of servants in this way, I can honestly say that I’ve never had a servant like Anna or Mr. Bates (characters on the show). However, looking at our Gospel lesson today, it seems as if Jesus has told us that everyone, every sinner, has had at least one servant in his or her life.

Three times in the Gospel of Mark, Jesus says that He is going to Jerusalem where He will be mocked, spit upon, flogged, killed, and – rise again. But this isn’t what the disciples wanted to hear, because success and glory in this world doesn’t look like someone dying on a cross. And so regardless of what Jesus is saying, James and John, more interested in their future careers and, sensing the that the end of Jesus’ work is done, approach Him with a request. They want to sit in positions of power and glory with Jesus.

Now they, along with Peter, already knew that they were special, the three of them had after all been with Jesus during the Transfiguration. But since there is only a right and a left hand, James and John take the initiative and Peter will just have to fend for himself. It seems kind of

seedy and underhanded; elbowing your way to the top is hardly loving your neighbor as yourself. When they find out, the other apostles become offended, but probably only because they hadn't asked Jesus first! But in all of this we can see that in their minds, and far too often in our own, being a disciple of Jesus meant glory, and honor, and prestige. And the disciples all wanted in on the action, despite what Jesus was telling them!

And so, immediately, Jesus sets the record straight - He sets the record straight for His disciples right there and for His church into eternity. He says, "*But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever must be first among you must be slave to all.*" Why is this shocking news so? Well Jesus gave them the ultimate rationale and what some say in the key verse to understand the entire Gospel of Mark in verse 45 when He says, "*For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.*"

When Jesus calls Himself the "the Son of Man", He is giving Himself a title that means He is human, but much more. By saying that He was "the" Son of Man, He meant that He was and that He is a representation of the entire Human Race. He is not merely a God and a human being, He is God and THE human being – God and the true man.

And He tells us that He came not to be served, but to serve. Jesus came to be a servant. This idea of service here refers to the most common service of the day. When St. Luke writes of this in chapter 22 of his Gospel, he mentions that Jesus asked, "*For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves?*" Who is greater? The owner and customers of a fine restaurant, or the waiter? Jesus says, He has come as the waiter. So, Jesus is telling us that the Son of Man, the one who represents all of perfect humanity came to serve others, rather than to be served.

The ultimate extension of this, comes at the end of verse 45 when Jesus says, not only has the Son of Man come to serve, but *to give His life for many*. Thus, Jesus brings the disciples' attention back to the cross, where He would suffer and die. This is the perfect conclusion to His love and service for all people. The miracles of healing are nice. The feeding of thousands is great. And the calming of storms are impressive. So much so that very often we pray that Jesus would work some similar miracles in our lives. But all of these great miracles of power would mean nothing if Jesus hadn't given His life as a ransom. If He hadn't paid the price of our sin. If He had not come to be a suffering servant for us all. For what good would it do to have a healthy heart or a full stomach and yet spend an eternity suffering for our unforgiven sin?

But Jesus doesn't leave our sin unforgiven. He came to serve and to give His life as a ransom. He came to pay the price on the cross for all of the times we have sinned against God and our neighbor by trying to elbow our way to the top at the expense of others. For all of the times when we have exchanged our lives as His disciples for the possessions and the glory and good times of this world. He forgives us for chasing after the glory of this world instead of picking up our own crosses and following Him. And this forgiveness, changes how we live our lives.

For if Jesus gave His life for us, how can we seek our own? If the Son of Man, who created both the supernova and the firefly and hold them all together in creation by His Word, became our servant, our waiter – how can we do less to those in our lives?

I've shared this before, but it's worth noting again the story of Samuel Brengle, who was a pretty successful Methodist pastor in the United States in the 1800's. But he left that behind and travelled to England in order to join the Salvation Army, led by William Booth. Upon enlisting, Booth said to Brengle, "You've been your own boss for too long." And to instill humility in Brengle, he gave him the task of polishing the other trainees' boots. Of course, as you can imagine this didn't sit too well with Brengle, having been so successful in America. But Brengle, who would

go on to become the first American to attain the rank of Commissioner in the Salvation Army, says that when he was begrudgingly polishing the boots, he saw Jesus bending over the feet of those rough and tough fishermen He called disciples. And Brengle prayed, “Lord, if you washed their feet, I will polish their boots.”

The next time you are tempted to live for yourself. Or the next time you are tempted to exchange the life of a disciple for fun and glory – remember Jesus. The next time that you feel you don’t need to love your neighbor - look at Jesus. And see Him not only washing the disciples’ feet, but see the Son of Man on the cross. See Jesus giving His life as a ransom for many - giving His life as a ransom for you. And may this not only bring comfort to you in your sin, but help you to live your life as one who is loving and serving others. Amen.

