



# Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

**May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 A.D. – Trinity Sunday**

*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

*(From Psalm 16 and a Liturgical Text)*

Blessèd be the Holy Trinity and the undivided Unity.

**Let us give glory to him because he has shown his mercy to us.**

I have set the LORD always before me;

**because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;

**my flesh also dwells secure.**

For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,

**or let your holy one see corruption.**

You make known to me the path of life;

**in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

*For those with access to the internet, you may now play today's worship video, located on Bethany's website ([www.bethanycr.org](http://www.bethanycr.org)) under the Worship Resources tab and then continue with the Apostles' Creed. Everyone else may continue the service as printed....*

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## Scripture Lesson – John 3:1-178

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup>That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

<sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

<sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>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.”

**Sermon** – † *Born Again* † (*A copy is included at the end of this service.*)

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### **The Athanasian Creed**

Whoever desires to be saved must, above all, hold the catholic faith. Whoever does not keep it whole and undefiled will without doubt perish eternally. And the catholic faith is this, **that we worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the substance. For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Holy Spirit is another. But the Godhead of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is one: the glory equal, the majesty coeternal.**

Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit: the Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, the Holy Spirit uncreated; the Father infinite, the Son infinite, the Holy Spirit infinite; the Father eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal.

**And yet there are not three Eternals, but one Eternal, just as there are not three Uncreated or three Infinites, but one Uncreated and one Infinite.**

In the same way, the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, the Holy Spirit almighty; and yet there are not three Almighty's, but one Almighty.

**So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God; and yet there are not three Gods, but one God.**

So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord; and yet there are not three Lords, but one Lord.

**Just as we are compelled by the Christian truth to acknowledge each distinct person as God and Lord, so also are we prohibited by the catholic religion to say that there are three Gods or Lords.**

The Father is not made nor created nor begotten by anyone. The Son is neither made nor created, but begotten of the Father alone.

**The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son, neither made nor created nor begotten, but proceeding.**

Thus, there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits.

**And in this Trinity none is before or after another; none is greater or less than another; but the whole three persons are coeternal with each other and coequal, so that in all things, as has been stated above, the Trinity in Unity and Unity in Trinity is to be worshiped.**

Therefore, whoever desires to be saved must think thus about the Trinity.

**But it is also necessary for everlasting salvation that one faithfully believe the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, it is the right faith that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is at the same time both God and man.**

He is God, begotten from the substance of the Father before all ages; and He is man, born from the substance of His mother in this age: perfect God and perfect man, composed of a rational soul and human flesh; equal to the Father with respect to His divinity, less than the Father with respect to His humanity.

**Although He is God and man, He is not two, but one Christ: one, however, not by the conversion of the divinity into flesh, but by the assumption of the humanity into God; one altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person.**

For as the rational soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ, who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead, ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

**At His coming all people will rise again with their bodies and give an account concerning their own deeds. And those who have done good will enter into eternal life, and those who have done evil into eternal fire. This is the catholic faith; whoever does not believe it faithfully and firmly cannot be saved.**

### 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**

- Five newly trained Stephen Ministers
- Dave Christian - recovering after surgery

#### **Entrusting into God's Care**

- Roland (brother of Bonnie Breiholz) - 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**

- Shirley (sister of Donice McDonald) - cancer
- John (brother of Donice McDonald) - cancer
- Gil (relative of Sheryl Knutson) - medical tests
- Anne (relative of Patty Fitzgerald) - hospitalization after bike accident
- Nancy Owens - recovery after surgery
- Jeannine Robinson - health issues
- Darlene Eckert - recovering at Cottage Grove after surgery
- Kyle Kraft - recovering after surgery
- Kim Neuhaus - health issues
- Elaine Cook - recovering after surgery
- Dale Stonewall - recovering at home after surgery
- Faye Sieck - health issues

### **Shut-Ins**

- Nadine Wax - at home

### **Mourning**

- Family and friends mourning the death of Al Bachman 5/23
- Loved ones mourning the death of Rev. William Riley on 5/17
- Bev Munson - mourning the death of husband, Blaine on 5/15
- Lehrman family mourning the death of Amanda on 5/15

### **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...Almighty and everlasting God, You have given us grace to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity by the confession of a true faith and to worship the Unity in the power of the Divine Majesty. Keep us steadfast in this faith and defend us from all adversities; for You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and reign, 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.**



✠ ***Born Again*** ✠

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

In the Lutheran Church, we don't talk too much about being born again. But our Gospel reading for this Trinity Sunday shows us that Jesus does. Jesus tells Nicodemus in our text, "*Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God*" (John 3:3)). C.F.W. Walther, the Missouri Synod's first president, points out that this verse shows us that being born again is not something a Christian may or may not have. Being born again is not optional for a Christian. It is not a quality that some Christians may have and others may lack. It is not a high level of Christianity that not everyone has to attain.

Jesus says, "*...unless one is born again he CANNOT SEE the kingdom of God.*" So, if one is not born again, you don't belong in the kingdom. You're on the outside looking in. But not even that. If you don't have this new birth, you are so far from God's grace you can't even see His kingdom. You can't come to God. You can't have your sins forgiven. And you certainly will not be saved.

If we think that maybe Jesus has just misspoken here or that He is using some sort of hyperbole, note that in our text for today Jesus asserts this truth with not one, not two, but four "amens" or "truly's". With God as His witness, He takes a fourfold oath to declare before all of the world: without new birth, no one will come into God's kingdom or even see it.

But Jesus doesn't stop there. He continues in v.6 by saying, "*That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit*" (John 3:6). Here, Jesus is showing us for whom this new birth is necessary, namely, everyone. Through the natural way that all people come into the world, being conceived by our physical parents and born of our physical mothers, we are not spiritual and therefore not suited for the kingdom of God. We do not inherit the things of the Spirit from our parents, but only natural life, our flesh, and our sin. That is we are conceived and born in sin. Naturally, our sin makes us enemies of God, and so we must be born of something else. Everyone must be born again of the Spirit to obtain forgiveness and everlasting life.

Walther says that the necessity of this new birth becomes even more clear when we consider Nicodemus, to whom Jesus spoke in our text for today. Nicodemus was already a member of the true church – at least by outward appearances. We can safely assume that God had received him into the Old Testament covenant of grace through circumcision. He seems to have been an elderly, wise, and experienced man. He was a ruler of the Jews, a strict Pharisee, but doesn't seem to have been as hypocritical or arrogant as many of the others. Unlike them, Nicodemus did not

despise Christ, much less seek to destroy Him. Instead, he regarded Jesus as “a teacher from God”. Therefore, he must have gladly listened to Jesus teach and even went to Him at night to talk about the way of salvation. In addition to all of this, he was a learned man, well acquainted with the Scriptures. In short, he was one of those people about whom everyone thought, “If he doesn’t go to heaven, who can?!?!”

Yet what does Christ say when Nicodemus comes to Him that night? He doesn’t pat him on the back and tell him what a good job he has done. Rather, Jesus seems to close the door of heaven before his eyes, saying that despite of all the good that Nicodemus has and has done, if he is not born again spiritually, he won’t be saved. Despite all of his virtues, all of his knowledge, all of his works, holiness, and righteousness – he’ll be lost and condemned without the new birth of the Spirit.

It’s clear from all of this that looks can be deceiving. A person can appear to be part of God’s kingdom. They can appear to have a right standing before the Lord. They may even come to church and hear God’s Word every Sunday. They may have all sorts of success in this world and in the church. People may look upon such a person and thing that they are a living saint! Yet such a person can still be flesh, born of flesh, and shut out of God’s kingdom, unless they have a newborn heart from the Holy Spirit. Outwardly, a person can appear to be a thousand times better than a true born-again Christian. But this does not help them at all unless they are born again.

Jesus says in v.5, *“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God”* (3:5). Despite this clear allusion to baptism, what Nicodemus doesn’t seem to understand is that salvation comes only from God. It does not depend upon what we have or have not done. Salvation is a gift from God that comes to us through faith in Christ. And that faith is a gift of the Spirit working through the Word of God and the Sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion.

Therefore, on this Trinity Sunday, we do more than just celebrate and remember the triune nature of the One True God. We give thanks for the work of salvation that each person of the Trinity has done in our lives. And we remember, regardless of our situation or appearance, to live as ones born again. For God has already begun this good work in us, and we can find comfort that He will see it to completion. Amen.

