



# Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

**June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 - The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

*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 107*

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

He made the storm be still,

**and the waves of the sea were hushed.**

Then they were glad that the waters were quiet,  
**and he brought them to their desired haven.**

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

Let them extol him in the congregation of the people,  
**and praise him in the assembly of the elders.**

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

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## **Scripture Lesson** – *Mark 4:35-41*

<sup>35</sup>On that day, when evening had come, [Jesus] said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” <sup>36</sup>And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. <sup>37</sup>And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. <sup>38</sup>But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” <sup>39</sup>And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. <sup>40</sup>He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?” <sup>41</sup>And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even wind and sea obey him?”

**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**

- Christian fathers
- Baby/Toddler Milestones Blessing event 6/13

### **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**

- Dale (brother of Marge Grovert) - Parkinson's disease
- Eugene (grandfather of Erin Heller) - hospitalization
- Dathan Hinrichs - recovering after a burn
- Wanda (friend of Heitlands) - cancer
- Shirley (sister of Donice McDonald) - cancer
- John (brother of Donice McDonald) - cancer
- Nancy Owens - recovery after surgery
- Jeannine Robinson - health issues
- Darlene Eckert - recovering at Garnett Place
- 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**

- Wayne Schilling - Linn Manor Care Center

### **Mourning**

- Julie Elias - mourning the death of her mother, Vera on 6/6
- Family and friends mourning the death of Al Bachman 5/23

### **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... Almighty God, in Your mercy guide the course of this world so that Your Church may joyfully serve You in godly peace and quietness; 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.**



✠ *Peace* ✠

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

The events that are recorded for us in our Gospel lesson this morning are familiar to most of us. Jesus calming the storm is recorded in all of the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) and is something we learn and teach about early on in Sunday School. We do this because Jesus calming the storm tells us about Him and His nature as the Son of God and the Son of Man. But is Jesus calming the storm Law or Gospel? When we see Him calming the wind and the waves should we feel relieved or should we be terrified?

If this sounds like a strange questions, put yourself in the boat with the disciples. They were out in the open water as the wind and the waves began to pick up energy. As the storm gathered momentum the disciples became afraid and justifiably so, as the waves came crashing over the side of their boat. But as see by carefully reading the text, their fear in that boat was caused by more than just the wind and the waves. Deeper than the sea in which they feared drowning, was also a fear of the One they should have trusted. The One they should have found comfort and peace with. Both are fears we may also experience in our lives, but both are fears that Jesus addresses when He rises and says, "*Peace, be still!*"

When Jesus speaks His word of peace it not only can calm storms on seas, but can also still the terrors that we face in life. We see this in our Gospel lesson as the disciples were terrified when they cried out to Jesus. Many times it seems the disciples are rather slow in understanding what Jesus was teaching them or in trusting Him as we see this morning. But if they were not the best students, many of them were experienced fisherman who no doubt has seen their fair share of storms. So, when they become terrified, it must have been more than a stiff breeze coming in that day.

But in their terror they do an interesting thing. As they cry out to Jesus, they accuse Him. They accused or rebuked Jesus because He didn't intervene on their behalf. The reason they spoke was purely selfish – as they asked, “*Do you not care about that we are perishing*”? They were not worried about Jesus, nor the people in the other boats. They were worried about their own skin and in their fear they began to point their fingers at Jesus, the One who could really help them and the One who truly loved them. But they seem to have accused Him as causing their problem!

Now listen to the words you speak when you have your moments of terror. Don't we often turn defensive and accusing as well. Those who have spent any time caring for a loved one with a chronic illness know that when we fear sickness and death, we often turn our frustrations on those who try to help – our family, friends and those in the medical field. When we fear a relationship is in danger we far too often turn to distrust to those in that relationship, rather than devotion and love. And it's not just other people we lash out against when we are afraid. Often we tell ourselves that God doesn't care and so when immediate danger arises the first word out of our mouth is his name in vain.

Here we see that lack of faith and trust is at the center of it all. With Jesus present, the disciples – and all of us here – really have nothing to fear. Jesus was at complete peace in the boat (He was sleeping after all) and He is just as confident and peace in whatever crisis we find ourselves in. He, as the Son of God and the Son of Man knows that He can handle whatever it is that we face in life. But of course, our sin enters in and so we doubt.

But then Jesus speaks. “Peace, be still!” He utters His perfect and almighty word to still the wind and the waves, creating peace and calm on the earth. And His speaking peace certainly calmed the disciples' fear of the storm. But more importantly for us today, His speaking “peace” calms our fears and worries when we face danger. His Word brings us peace when we face the aftermath of storms that turn our world on end. His Word brings peace when we face the uncertainty of a pandemic, or any sickness or illness that disrupts our lives. And He is able to speak “peace” because His death on the cross has removed the sin of the world that disrupts the harmony of creation. With Christ's Word of peace present, sin has been removed, Eden is restored. Storms water the earth so it may bring forth its fruits and not destroy His own creation and any disease is easily overcome.

But strangely enough the disciples, even after the storm was calmed, were still afraid. It would seem that they were in the clear. Jesus just told the wind to stop blowing and the waves to stop crashing into them and they listened! What were they so afraid of now?

Well remember that year that King Uzziah died. Isaiah the great prophet saw God sitting on His throne. And smoke filled the temple and the earth shook at the sound of God's voice. And in the presence of God, Isaiah honestly cried, “*Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!*” (Isaiah 6:5) You see, left with our sin, we find no comfort in the power of an almighty and hold God. We actually can only find comfort in God's mercy.

After the storm died down, the disciples were still afraid and they said under their breath, “Who is this guy?” Like Isaiah, they knew the greater terror than drowning in the sea was being in the presence of the One true God who could control it and all of creation. As sinners they sensed such a powerful presence could only destroy anything or anyone that was less than holy – and they knew that is exactly what they were!

And they were actually right. Today, many may like to believe that God chuckles at the little foibles, we may or may not call sin. Or that because Jesus is our friend, that He’ll overlook any shortcomings that we might have in keeping His Law. But God’s Word is quite clear - without Christ, God will surely destroy anyone corrupted by sin.

God’s power, shown when He calmed the storm, makes this fact all the more frightening. Today our speaking – or lack of it – may sometimes betray the terror we have in God’s presence. When we carelessly toss God’s name about are we doing it to hide a fear we might have of Him? Does our failure to pray or worship hide a fear that maybe God really doesn’t want us in His presence? How many times have I heard someone say if they come to church the roof will fall down? It’s said in jest, but as we all know there’s a little bit of truth in every joke. Do we fear death, not because it is the end of this life, but because we know that we’ll or those we love will be judged into our eternal destiny? For these, and all our fears of encountering God what we truly need, like those disciples in the boat, is the peace that only Christ can bring.

And so in the ark of Christ’s church today, we hear His Word and believe that we don’t have to be afraid of God’s presence, but can and will rejoice in it. For the same Jesus who spoke to the storm, is the same Jesus who died on the cross for you. This enables Jesus to speak, not judgment, but forgiveness and mercy upon you. His power is not something that we need to fear, but something that we can rejoice in, for Christ laid this power aside so that He could die on the cross for the sin of everyone in the world. And then using His power, He rose triumphantly from death and the grave.

When Jesus speaks peace to the storm then, though this shows us His power, we also know that He is speaking peace to us. Peace that comes from the forgiveness of our sin. And so, as we come into His presence at the baptismal font, or at His table, or in His church, or even in death, we have no reason to fear. We have no reason to fear any of the storms we might face in this life, and we certainly don’t need to fear the Almighty God. For though God is perfectly holy and powerful, His Son Jesus, the Christ, died so we might have peace and have it forever. Amen.

