



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

July 11, 2021 A.D. The 7th 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 *Psalm 143*

For your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life!
In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!
Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!
In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!
Enter not into judgment with your servant,
for no one living is righteous before you.
Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love,
for in you I trust.

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 – Ephesians 1:3-14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of

truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,
14who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Sermon – ✠ *Give All Glory to God* ✠ (*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

Entrusting into God's Care

- Those suffering after the storm and during the pandemic
- The homeless & the unemployed
- Workers in the Church, at Bethany and throughout the World

Healing

- Micah (grandson of Willmses) - recovering after surgery
- Ed Schumacher - injury
- Sandy (neighbor of Bonnie Bubke) - cancer treatment
- Barb (sister of Linda Patten) - cancer
- Kim Neuhaus - recovering after surgery
- Tina Freese - recovering after hospitalization
- Dathan Hinrichs - recovering after a burn
- Nancy Owens - recovery after surgery
- Jeannine Robinson - health issues
- Darlene Eckert - recovering at Garnett Place
- Kyle Kraft - recovering after surgery
- Dale Stonewall - recovering at home after surgery
- Faye Sieck - health issues

Shut-Ins

- Del Block - The Gardens

Mourning

- Darrel (father of Janet Hoech) - died 7/6
- Dorothy (mother of Mark Elias) - died 7/6
- Dennis (brother of Karen Pfeffer) - died 6/29
- Eugene (grandfather of Erin Heller & Matt Rinderknecht) - died 6/22
- LoAnn (relative of Bonnie Bubke) - died 6/19

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... O Lord, You granted Your prophets strength to resist the temptations of the devil and courage to proclaim repentance. Give us pure hearts and minds to follow Your Son faithfully even into suffering and death; through the same Jesus Christ, 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.



✠ *Give All Glory to God* ✠

This week's sermon was written by Pastor Tom Hedtke

Every once in a while there comes a TV show that goes into the White House. We are able to see the elegant furnishings and learn something about the history of the house in which the president and his family lives. Tourists visiting Washington may also go on a brief tour of the White House and see some of its beautiful rooms. However, very few of us will ever be invited over for a cook out or to spend the evening. And very, very few people in our country will ever be able to live there.

But as the children of God, we all have the very sure hope of some day living with God in the glory of His heavenly home. That hope should give us joy and courage, even when our life here on earth is depressing or filled with pain and anxiety. Saint Paul reminds us in today's lesson that hope is made possible by God's grace. So, we should live in joy and confidence and always seek to ... **"GIVE ALL GLORY TO GOD."**

[1. Glory to God for His Great Blessings]

We should give all glory to God for providing us with many great blessings. The thrill of knowing that He loves us ought to make Christians the happiest people on earth. But are we always happy? All too often, we let the troubles of life with its aches and pains get us down. People often complain about the weather – it's too hot or too cold or too humid. If it's not the weather, then maybe it's the high cost of living or the crime rate. Or, maybe it's

one's health or the virus or problems in their family life. Or they find fault with the government, the schools, or something else. You name it – people will complain about it. Obviously it's true, that not everything in life will please us. But we should never forget that we do have a gracious and wise Father in heaven, who provides us with every spiritual blessing. Does that make you feel good?

That's how St Paul felt. Listen to how he breaks out in praise in vs. 3-4 ...

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ for giving us through Christ every spiritual benefit as citizens of Heaven! For consider what He has done – before the foundation of the world He chose us to be, in Christ, His children, holy and blameless in His sight." (Ephesians 1:3-4)

Whether you take a tour of the White House or just visit a new model home, you will probably see some things you like and some things you don't like. And so in our life as children of God, we may not always agree with the plan God has for us, and we may feel that we would prefer some things to work out differently than they do. But God, our Father, does know what He is doing. He deals with us in love so that we can say, as David once wrote ...

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want ... my cup over-flows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever." (Psalm 23:1,5-6 RSV)

Maybe Paul was thinking about those words when he wrote this text.

Do we share that same sense of joy and contentment as the children of God? We can when we realize that is what we are – the children of God by His Grace in Christ. To say that we are the children of God is not a reason for boasting about what we have accomplished. To say that we are the children of God is a statement of faith. It is founded on the truth that in Christ – God has...

"predestined us to be adopted as His (children) through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will – to the praise of His glorious grace." (Ephesians 1:5-6 NIV)

[2. Glory to God for His Grace in Christ]

That last phrase ... ***"to the praise of His glorious grace"*** (Ephesians 1:6 NIV) – all of the credit goes to God. He is the cause. He is our reason for rejoicing. God did not wait until we were born to see what we would be like. He did not wait in choosing us until we had grown up to see if we would be any good or respectable. Even before the foundation of the world, before God had created the sun and the moon and the stars, even then He looked down through time and decided that He wanted to have us as His children. That's what Saint Paul is saying ...

"He chose us in Him before the creation of the world ... In love He predestined us to be adopted as His (children) through Jesus Christ." (Ephesians 1:4-5 NIV)

That certainly strips away any reason for pride on our part. In the next chapter of Ephesians Paul writes ...

*"by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast."
(Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV)*

What prompted God to choose you or me or anyone to believe in Him and become His children? It is His love ... **"IN CHRIST."** That is one of the main themes of this letter to the Ephesians. The phrase – *"in Him"* or *"in Christ"* – or some variation of it occurs over one-hundred-and-fifty (150) times in this short letter and ten (10) times in this text. God did not decide to choose us in the way that kids choose players for a ball game. The captains always pick the best players first. God didn't do it that way.

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace." (Ephesians 1:7 NIV)

When God chose you and me it wasn't because of anything in us, but simply because of His perfect love shown to us in Jesus.

There are some very familiar but important terms here loaded with meaning. One is the word - **"REDEMPTION"**. This is the act of being – *"bought back"* or *"ransomed."* It pictures our salvation as something of great value, being accomplished at tremendous cost – the blood of Jesus. And His blood represents His entire life, everything that He did to make up for our disobedience. It stands for His innocent suffering and death to endure the penalty for our sin.

May we never forget what Jesus did and what His blood means to us. We may feel depressed at times because of our guilt. We try to live as we believe we should, but still we find ourselves failing. Well, don't give up. His blood cleanses us - from – all – sin. We try to look for the brighter side of life, but sometimes problems seem to block our view of God's love. Then remember what Jesus has done. Remember how God has loved us in His dear Son. Think about these things – and give God praise for that. Then your troubles will not overwhelm you. You will want to give all glory to God and you will find courage and hope in every – in every – situation of life.

[3. Glory to God for the Seal of His Spirit]

God not only has given us every spiritual blessing – He not only did all of this out of love – but He has also given us the seal of His Holy Spirit so that we can have the faith we need to ... **"GIVE ALL GLORY TO HIM."** Saint Paul wrote ...

"you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance." (Ephesians 1:13-14 NIV)

You were sealed. This is a figure of speech relating to the sealing of a letter or official document sent by a king. Such a letter would be sealed shut with melted wax and before the wax was hard, the king would make his official impression on the wax with the seal of his ring. The mark of the king showed that the letter was genuine. In such a way God has placed His mark on us by - "**Sealing**" - us with His Holy Spirit. When we were baptized, the Spirit was given – as God promised. When we hear God's Word, when we come to the Lord's table – the Holy Spirit is there – sealing us and strengthening within us the faith that God Himself created in our hearts. And with that faith, the Holy Spirit guides us to see that we have a special purpose in life. We are the children of God called to –

"GIVE ALL GLORY TO HIM."

At the same time, the Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our inheritance. Another way of saying it would be to call the Holy Spirit the - "**down payment.**" When you buy a house, you make a down payment which binds you and the selling party into an agreement. The rest of the money will follow, but the down payment makes the deal a definite transaction. Now think about this – we don't give God a down payment – rather, He gives us His Holy Spirit as the down payment or guarantee that we belong to Him and that we shall have a place with Him in His heavenly home.

With all of this in mind, it's obvious that we have every reason to rejoice and to ... "**GIVE GLORY TO GOD!**" Shouldn't we count it a privilege to hear His Word and live as His loving, obedient children? That is our purpose, and for that reason we need to listen with humble, believing hearts to His Word. We need to listen – not only for encouragement and comfort – but also to see where our lives have gone astray and how we need to change our ways. When Jesus sent out the Twelve, they went out preaching that people should repent. Repentance is an important part of the Christian life. It means turning away from what is wrong ... and by faith seek to do what pleases the Lord.

In our Old Testament lesson God sent Amos to warn the King of Israel to repent. The priest Amaziah tried to refute the prophet's message. He said that Amos should never again prophesy at Bethel because it was the king's sanctuary – as if to say that even the Word of God could not reach or disturb the king there. So, how is it in your life? Is there some secret sanctuary, some way of life, some attitude that refuses to let the Word of God come with its power to reshape and change us according to the Will of God. Think about it. For all that God has done and still promises to do for you ... are there still parts of your life about which you say ...

"Hands off, God, I really don't want to change?"

Is that true for you??? Think about it!!!

For those called by God's grace to be His children and heirs of heaven, there can and will be no part of life that has a - "**HANDS OFF**" - sign on it for God. When we realize what He has done, that in Christ He has provided us with every spiritual blessing, then we will want more and more to surrender – "**ALL**" – of our life to Him. We will want, under the

power of His Spirit, to live in obedience and joy as His children. We may still be far from perfect, and we will still have to fight against our own weakness and the temptations around us. But as the children of God, sealed by His Spirit, chosen and called in Christ – we will want to give all credit and respect and honor and glory to God. With His help, that will be our goal in life. Amen.