



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

The 8th Sunday after Pentecost (July 18th, 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 23*

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² **He makes me lie down in green pastures.**

He leads me beside still waters.

³ **He restores my soul.**

He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴ **Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,**

I will fear no evil,

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

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 6:30-44

³⁰The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹And he said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. ³²And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. ³³Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. ³⁴When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things. ³⁵And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. ³⁶Send them away to go into the

surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.”³⁷ But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” And they said to him, “Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?”³⁸ And he said to them, “How many loaves do you have? Go and see.” And when they had found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.”³⁹ Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass.⁴⁰ So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties.⁴¹ And taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all.⁴² And they all ate and were satisfied.⁴³ And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish.⁴⁴ And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.

Sermon – ✠ *You Deserve a Break Today* ✠ (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

- Dathan Hinrichs - recovering after a burn
- Jeannine Robinson - health issues
- Hoech's house re-construction contract secured
- Sean (son of Doris Baker) - ordained on 7/11

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 - shoulder injury
- Sandy (neighbor of Bonnie Bubke) - cancer treatment
- Barb (sister of Linda Patten) - hospice care
- Kim Neuhaus - recovering after surgery
- Tina Freese - recovering after hospitalization
- Nancy Owens - recovery after surgery
- Darlene Eckert - recovering at Garnett Place
- Dale Stonewall - recovering at home after surgery
- Faye Sieck - health issues

Shut-Ins

- Larry & Sharon Easler - Summit Point, Marion

Mourning

- Tamara (aunt of Erin Heller & Matt Rinderknecht)- died 7/9
- 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

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... Heavenly Father, though we do not deserve Your goodness, still You provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge Your gifts, 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

Almighty God and gracious Father, in Your mercy look on those whose increasing years bring them weakness, anxiety, distress, or loneliness. Grant that they may always know care and respect, concern and understanding. Grant them willing hearts to accept help and, as their strength wanes, increase their faith with the constant assurance of Your love through Jesus Christ.

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.



✠ *You Deserve a Break Today* ✠

Every so often a commercial comes along that sticks in your memory. "***Good to the last drop***" -- is one; or ... "***Hefty, Hefty, Hefty***" garbage bags. How about... "***Finger Licking Good***" - from Kentucky Fried Chicken. A gasoline company wants us to know that their product is ... "***Best in the long run***" -- and an airline wants us to fly their ... "***friendly skies***". An Insurance company says ... "***you only pay for what you need.***" I'm sure there are many more.

How about this one? "***You Deserve a Break Today!***" You've heard it many times from a fast food business. The words are simple and memorable. This slogan follows all the rules of effective advertising. It is directed to the consumer, and the word - "***deserve***" - helps the customer to avoid any guilt feelings he or she may have. It invites us to enjoy a snack or a meal.

Today's Gospel also speaks about a break. Jesus had sent His twelve disciples out, two by two, to proclaim God's Word and to heal the sick. On their return they reported to Jesus

all that they had done and taught. To escape the demands of a crowd, Jesus said ... **"let's go off by ourselves to some place where we will be alone and you can rest a while"** (Mark 6:31 TEV TEHJ) They went by boat four miles across the water to a lonely spot. But some people saw them leave, told others, and they all hurried on foot ten miles around the lake to follow Jesus. So, right after Jesus told His disciples ... **"You Deserve a Break Today"** (Mark 6:31 TEH paraphrase) - the presence of more than fivethousand people made it impossible.

Let's look at this incident from four different vantage points. Here is (1) an intermission - and (2) an interruption. Here we can (3) see ourselves - and we can (4) see the Shepherd, the people walked ten miles to see.

[1. See an Intermission]

First, Intermission or Rest -- there is nothing wrong with rest. It's legitimate -- and necessary-- and even commanded by God. We don't have to feel guilty for taking a break and so we should. Of course, things can always be done to extremes. Some people will always abuse a privilege, but here we are speaking of a well-deserved rest.

The word - **"intermission"** - used at the theater or athletic events means a chance for the actors or players to catch their breath before they have to go out again. In baseball it's the seventh-inning stretch. In other sports it's halftime.

Back in the beginning God ordained / established rest. The Book of Genesis gives us clear direction; six days of work and one day of rest. God made it even clearer in the Third Commandment ... **"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."** (Exodus 20:8 RSVJ) Jesus Himself gave a memorable invitation ... **"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."** (Matthew 11:28 ESVJ) God's word not only legitimizes rest, it encourages us to make good use of the breaks and intermissions of life.

So, why do we need rest? The best reason is the way our bodies are put together. Not even the best-trained athlete can continue to perform indefinitely. You may go on until you drop, but drop you finally will. There are things you can take to put you to sleep and stimulants to keep you awake, but the best choice is to balance work and rest.

[2. See an Interruption]

The crowd that had hiked ten miles to see Jesus also needed a break, in the sense of finding something good and helpful for their lives. If we wonder about the likelihood that some five-thousand plus people would come to this lonely place to see the prophet from Nazareth, we have only to look at the popularity of current music and athletic stars. Any popular performer can easily draw thousands who are willing to wait all night for tickets, and who would gladly walk miles for the privilege of hearing their favorite performer. This text definitely is not beyond the believable.

Think of other people waiting for the great physician:

a woman saying ... ***"Please, Jesus, will you lay your hand on my daughter. I'm afraid she is possessed!"***

- or another one, who says ... ***"My father has not been able to straighten his back for years. Will you help him?"***

A woman holding a crying child says ... ***"My child has had a pain in his stomach for three days. Will you heal him?"***

What does one do with interruptions like these?

Here's a ***"what if ..."*** Imagine your family doctor arriving for a week's vacation at a favorite resort. As he goes into the lobby to register, he sees twenty-five of his patients from home quietly standing there, waiting to see him. He goes out to tee off for a round of golf, and at the first tee are another fifteen more of his patients. Another group is waiting at the entrance to the pool, and more want his attention outside the dining hall. You wouldn't blame this doctor for leaving - perhaps that same night - but certainly before the next morning; telling no one where he is going.

I know that feeling. One time Mary Jane and I drove two days and entering the campground, there was a message on the gate-house window ... ***"Rev. Hedtke, please call your office!!!"*** Those things happen, they are part of the job.

How do you deal with interruptions? Don't we often consider interruptions to be annoying and aggravating? Think about those tele-marketers that call during mealtime. We have four grandchildren and my wife and I used to argue about who will lie down with them for their naps. Well, they're past that now. It was a treat to lie down with them - we also got a nap.

I remember once putting our two-year-old grandson down for a Sunday afternoon nap when he and I were the only ones home. But after about five minutes, I sensed the presence of someone standing beside me. As I opened my eyes, there he was with his blanket and a thumb in his mouth, saying ... ***"I can't sleep, Grandpa."*** Well, needless to say, there was no nap that day. So, how did your days go this week?

Jesus never seemed too busy for interruptions. He responded to the cries of the ten lepers and to blind Bartimaeus. On His way to Jairus' house, He was interrupted and healed the woman who touched the hem of His clothes. He spent an evening with a visitor, Nicodemus, and answered Martha's complaints about her sister, Mary.

Jesus changed interruptions into opportunities for ministry. When I get my priorities switched around, I think of the cartoon depicting a pastor who was scolding his little son for interrupting him while he was writing his sermon. ***"Can't you see I'm busy?"*** -- the pastor said. ***"I'm working on a sermon about patience!"*** For some,

interruptions can become opportunities. For others they are just a bother.

[3. See Yourself]

Jesus described the crowd that came to Him as being like sheep without a shepherd. In Matthew's Gospel they are characterized as ... "**harassed and helpless.**" (*Matthew 9:36 NJV*)

Just imagine what it would be like to actually be a sheep without a shepherd. Such sheep might be carefree and adventuresome, tending to get into mischief, like a child in a classroom with no teacher. Some of you may remember the movie "**Ferris Bueller's Day Off.**" (1986) It would be fun to go off in any direction you wished, without having someone watching over you all the time. You could decide where you would like to go and what you would like to do, instead of being told what to do.

Lost Sheep - as the day wore on, you might start hunting around for some green pastures and quiet water, but you would be uncertain where to go. So you would look around for your friends. Only a couple of other lost sheep would be in sight. They too would be hungry, and as the afternoon breeze becomes chilly, you would begin to get concerned. As evening came, you would sense danger and you would wish the flock was back together. You'd look for the shepherd, but no one would be there. It would get scary as night came -- with no rod or staff to protect you.

Jesus saw the people who came to Him in need of a shepherd. They were lost, confused, and didn't know which way to go. They were frightened, anxious, and defenseless. Could you see yourself there - as a sheep without a shepherd?

Life can be scary in this uncertain world. Obviously, it has been a long time since Bethany has been without a regular, full-time pastor. Without a pastor, it can be easy to feel abandoned. But remember - a pastor is an "**under-shepherd**" and you always have the **Good Shepherd - Jesus**. Never has or will **HE** desert you. And to show you so, He has sent a replacement - "**under-shepherd**", Mike Erickson to serve as your pastor. We may be like sheep without a shepherd, but we are not left to wander off on our own. The Good Shepherd is always caring for us.

[4. See the Shepherd]

The image of the caring Shepherd becomes clear and meaningful in this text. Verse thirty-four read ... "**(Jesus) had compassion on them.**"¹¹ (*Mark 6:34 NtVJ*) The Greek word for - "**compassion**" - is a word that means both sympathy and pity - a feeling of affection that comes from deep within. The New English Bible says ... "**his heart went out to them.**"¹¹ (*Mark 6:34 NEBJ*) Jesus provided for their needs in a tangible way. In the verses following this text, He fed this group of more than five thousand with two fish and five loaves -- but that text is for another time.

There is no question about the qualifications of the Christ. He is the Good Shepherd, who looks after the needs of the sheep. He makes them lie down in green pastures and leads them beside the still waters. Even in the valley of the shadow of death - even then they know that they need not fear, for His rod and staff offer the security they need. He prepares a table before them, and they know that goodness and mercy will follow them all the days of their lives and they will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. This Good Shepherd has proven His love. He has offered Himself for the sake of the sheep.

This incident in the Gospel allows us to (1) see an intermission, planned by Christ Himself. It allows us to see (2) how He dealt with an unexpected interruption. It allows us to (3) see ourselves as sheep without shepherd, sometimes wandering aimlessly through life. And it allows us to (4) see the compassionate Good Shepherd, who provides for all our needs.

"You Deserve a Break Today" -- but the best break you will ever have is the day that you meet and know the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ - ***HIMSELF***- face to face !!! **He** does care for you regardless of what is happening in your life. He is there for you. He will not desert you. He is and always will be with you, in good and in bad. On that you can depend and in that you can trust. For Jesus Himself said ... ***"Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."*** (Matthew 28:20 KJV) Take that thought with you this week as you live in His name and to His glory. Your Lord and God is with you, caring for you, every day this week. **Amen.**

