



# Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

## **The 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – August 1<sup>st</sup>, 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**

*(From Psalm 78)*

With upright heart he shepherded them  
**and guided them with his skillful hand.**

He commanded the skies above  
**and opened the doors of heaven,**  
and he rained down on them manna to eat  
**and gave them the grain of heaven.**

Man ate of the bread of the angels;  
**he sent them food in abundance.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

*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** – *John 6:22-35*

<sup>22</sup>On the next day the crowd that remained on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. <sup>23</sup>Other boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. <sup>24</sup>So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus.

<sup>25</sup>When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" <sup>26</sup>Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. <sup>27</sup>Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal." <sup>28</sup>Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works

of God?”<sup>29</sup> Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”<sup>30</sup> So they said to him, “Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform?”<sup>31</sup> Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”<sup>32</sup> Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven.<sup>33</sup> For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”<sup>34</sup> They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

<sup>35</sup> Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”

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

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### **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**

- Micah (grandson of Willmses) - healing after surgery

#### **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**

- Velma Ziesemer - recovering after surgery
- Ed Schumacher - shoulder injury
- Kim Neuhaus - recovering after surgery
- Nancy Owens - recovery after surgery
- Darlene Eckert - recovering at Garnett Place
- Dale Stonewall - recovering at home after surgery
- Faye Sieck - health issues

#### **Shut-Ins**

- Candi Engel - Garnet Place

#### **Mourning**

- Barb (sister of Linda Patten) - died 7/16
- Tamara (aunt of Erin Heller & Matt Rinderknecht) - died 7/9

#### **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... Merciful Father, You gave Your Son Jesus as the heavenly bread of life. Grant us faith to feast on Him in Your Word and Sacraments that we may be nourished unto life everlasting; 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

Lord, keep this nation under Your care. Bless the leaders of our land that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and blessing to the other nations of the earth. Grant that we may choose trustworthy leaders, contribute to wise decisions for the general welfare, and serve You faithfully in our generation; 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.**



✠ *True Bread* ✠

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

In the 1930's the most famous living author was William Somerset Maugham. He was an accomplished novelist, a great playwright, and a short story writer. In fact, his novel "Of Human Bondage" quickly established itself as a classic. His play "The Constant Wife" had gone through thousands of stagings. By 1965 Maugham was ninety-one years old and fabulously wealthy. Royalties were continuing to pour in from all over the world despite the fact that he had not written a single word in years. He had servants, including a cook who was the envy of all of his wealthy friends. His fame seemingly was on the upsurge as he received an average of three hundred letters a week from his fans. And yet, not everything was as well as it seemed.

His nephew Robin Maugham visited his famous uncle at his Mediterranean villa just before his death. Afterwards Robin wrote:

That evening, in the drawing room after dinner, Willie flung himself down onto the sofa. "Oh, Robin, I'm so tired . . ." He gave a gulp and buried his head in his hands. "I've been a failure the whole way through my life," he said. "I've made mistake after mistake.

I've made a hash of everything." I tried to comfort him. "You're the most famous writer alive. Surely that means something?" "I wish I'd never written a single word," he answered. "It's brought me nothing but misery. . . Everyone who's got to know me well has ended up by hating me. . . My whole life has been a failure. . . And now it's too late to change. It's too late. . ." Willie looked up, and his grip tightened on my hands. He was staring towards the floor. His face was contorted with fear, and he was trembling violently. Willie's face was ashen as he stared in horror ahead of him. Suddenly, he began to shriek. "Go away!" he cried. "I'm not ready. . . I'm not dead yet. . . I'm not dead yet, I tell you. . ." Willie began to gasp hysterically.

William Maugham was one of the most famous and distinguished men of his generation—a man who had everything. He had money and fame. He lived in mansions and dined with princes. But when he came to the end of his life, he found his empty and worthless and was afraid to die.

Contrast this terrible account of the famous writer to the poem written by another man who likewise faced certain death. Shortly before being executed by the Nazis during WWII, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German pastor and theologian wrote a poem from prison, part of which read:

*Should it be ours to drain the cup of grieving  
Even to the dregs of pain, at thy command,  
We will not falter, thankfully receiving  
All that is given by thy loving hand.*

As both Maugham and Bonhoeffer entered their last days, their situations could not have seemed to be more different. Maugham was successful, wealthy, and lived in the lap of luxury as he was adored by millions. Bonhoeffer sat in a Gestapo prison, condemned by the deranged leader of his own country. And yet their attitudes in their last days seem to have been the exact opposite of what most would expect! Perhaps this was because while Bonhoeffer did not have a large bank account or his stomach full of the finest foods from around the world, he was filled and completely satisfied with the Bread of Life who came down from Heaven.

In our reading from John 6, Jesus Himself was a pretty popular guy. He had just miraculously fed the 5000 with a few loaves of bread and a couple of fish. And so large crowds were following Him wherever He went, even to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. However, Jesus was not all that impressed with His own popularity, because He knew that the crowds were not following Him for exactly the right reasons. He tells the crowds in v.26, "...*you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.*" Jesus said that the crowds were not following Him because they saw the signs that pointed to Him being Savior of the world (the true purpose of Jesus' miracles), but rather they followed Him because they had their stomachs filled and now they wanted more and more.

Very often, people today make the same mistake. They come to Jesus not to have a Savior from their sin, but to receive God's earthly or material blessings. The problem with this is that if we only expect to receive material blessings from God, no matter how good they may be, we'll always end up wanting more and we'll miss out on His true blessings that are so much greater and will last into an eternity!

I thought of this just recently when I was on vacation. Going out west, my family and I had the opportunity to go hiking in some of our nation's most beautiful wilderness. While on the trail we were able to see mountains and valleys, animals and plants of all kinds. As often happens when one is out in nature, we were able to see the beauty of God's creation in ways that are often hidden in our modern world and lives. However, as soon as we finished our first hike (and the lactic acid and soreness cleared from our legs), what did we do? We started planning our next

hike! One apparently wasn't good enough, we needed to do another and another, so that we could see God's creation and have the blessings that came with it again and again.

Of course, when we came home, vacation was over and there was work to do. Aiden (my son) had to cut the grass. There was laundry to do, groceries to buy, and meals to make. But guess what! It will come of no surprise to any of you that after a week or so, the grass will need to be cut again. We'll have to make another trip to the grocery store. And even if we ate the best of meals until we couldn't possibly have had one more bite...we'd be hungry again in only a few hours!

Now of course Luther points out that things like house and home, clothing and food, and even this incredible world in which we live are all good things that come from God's loving hand. But these blessings, as good as they are, are temporary. They are not the goal of our being with God, nor are they anywhere close to all that God wants to give us. In fact, just like Jesus feeding the 5000, many of God's material blessings that we receive are simply signs or indicators pointing us to His ultimate blessing; pointing us to the Bread of Life, Jesus Christ, who came, suffered, died and rose again for the forgiveness of our sins. Therefore, His grace and favor is not something that goes away after just a short amount, but is something that will last into eternity.

Jesus said in John 6:35, "*I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.*" What a difference Jesus, the Bread of Life, is compared to all of the other blessings that God gives and that we spend so much time chasing after. He is eternal. He is received, not through our own sweat or labor, but through our faith and trust. And He, and He alone, gives forgiveness, life, and salvation. William Maugham, had a lot of fantastic meals in his life, but unlike Bonhoeffer, he wasn't filled this the Bread of Life. He missed out on the greatest blessing that God longed to give him and it showed in the end. May all of us have the peace and comfort that Bonhoeffer had - the great blessing of Jesus Christ, who came to satisfy all our needs, including and especially, forgiveness and salvation. Amen.

