



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

August 8th 2021 A.D. – The 11th 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 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

Psalm 34:1-8

I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

²My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
let the humble hear and be glad.

³Oh, magnify the LORD with me,
and let us exalt his name together!

⁴I sought the LORD, and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.

⁵Those who look to him are radiant,
and their faces shall never be ashamed.

⁶This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him
and saved him out of all his troubles.

⁷The angel of the LORD encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers them.

⁸Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!
Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

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 Apostles' Creed. Everyone else may continue the service as printed....

Scripture Lesson – *John 6:35-51*

³⁵Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. ³⁶But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. ³⁷All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast

out. ³⁸For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

⁴¹So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” ⁴²They said, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven?’” ⁴³Jesus answered them, “Do not grumble among yourselves. ⁴⁴No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. ⁴⁵It is written in the Prophets, ‘And they will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me— ⁴⁶not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

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

Apostles’ Creed

☩ I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven And sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; The holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; The forgiveness of sins; The resurrection of the body; And the life † everlasting. 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

- Darlene Eckert - recovering at home

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
- Crysten (wife of Daniel Sanchez, Camp IODISECA) - recovering after accident
- Ed Schumacher - shoulder injury
- Kim Neuhaus - recovering after surgery
- Nancy Owens - recovery after surgery
- Dale Stonewall - recovering at home after surgery
- Faye Sieck - health issues

Shut-Ins

- Nadine Wax - at home

Mourning

- Mavis (aunt of Duane Pfeffer) - died 8/3
- 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.... Gracious Father, Your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Grant that Christ, the bread of life, may live in us and we in Him, 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.



✠ *Wise Bread* ✠

Grace, Mercy, and Peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Most people who believe in God understand, at least on some level, that they are not as wise or smart as the Almighty. But unfortunately, though we may often say this with our lips, there are many times, often when things are not going the way that we would want them to, when our hearts and minds become a classroom where we are the teachers giving lessons to God as our student. Just look at our Gospel lesson this morning.

We read in John 6:41, “*So the Jews grumbled about Him, because He said, ‘I am the bread that came down from heaven.’*” Never mind that it was the Jews who were grumbling about what Jesus said, because chances are that if we were there we would be grumbling too. After all, don’t we grumble today, even though we have God’s Word just as clear and plain in the Bible as those Jews did that St. John is telling us about? They were blinded by their human reason, as we tend to be. They must have thought, “How could this poor pathetic man, this son of a poor carpenter and a poor mother, be the bread that came down from heaven?!?! The bread that gives eternal life?!?!” To those Jews and their reason, nothing could have been more unlikely.

Our reason as well disputes much of what God tells us. There are of course the big issues of our time that we see playing out on the national and international levels. But sometimes they, as well as other matters become very personal struggles between our wisdom and God’s. God’s Word tells us that He loves us, that He watches over us, He is our rock and our shield. Yet who of us here has not been scared or had to endure hardships? Has anyone here ever looked in the checkbook to see if there is going to be enough for food or heat or rent or the mortgage this month? In a world that often seems to be held in the grips of terror and fear, does it seem reasonable that God is in control?

It’s okay to say that it doesn’t. But be prepared because this tension between our understanding and God’s gets a lot worse and then we’ll really have something to grumble about when we talk about the Bread of Life. When Christmas rolls around, does it really make sense that right there lying in that dirty stinky manger, doing all of the things that babies have to do is God? Isn’t it a little bit ridiculous that this condemned criminal, who lets Himself get nailed to a cross, is our Savior? In fact isn’t it true that almost everything in the Bible, from God putting this

tree right in the middle of the Garden and saying, “Don’t eat it” to Israel walking through the Red Sea on dry ground, to the cross, to the empty tomb, just really doesn’t measure up to our standards of wise and prudent thinking.

But whose yardstick are we measuring all of this by. St. Paul writes to the Corinthians, *“For the foolishness of God is wiser than men”* (I Corinthians 1:25). Jesus tells the Jews, stop grumbling among yourselves and listen. His words tell us that He doesn’t expect His teaching - He doesn’t expect the Gospel - to make sense, but it is true nonetheless.

We see this all the time in our everyday lives. Does a general tell each soldier in his army every little detail of the battle plan? Does your employer share with you every reason for every decision and plan in your business? Did your parents explain every decision they made that effected you as a child? We may like it if this happens, after all it puts us on the inside and makes us feel important. But it doesn’t always happen, nor should it. For what kind of army, business, or family would you have if they did!?! But for some reason we expect God to do exactly this when it comes to justice, salvation, and life!

And so, we have to hang our hats on what God tells us. And beginning in John 6:47 he says, *“Truly, truly I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life.”* I don’t care if it agrees with my reason or not - all I care about is whether God said it in His Holy Word. If He did, it must be true. Even though everything inside of me tells me that Jesus should say whoever believes in me and does good works has everlasting life, it must be true that we just need to believe. Even though I see people, including faithful Christians, all around me and all around this world, suffer and die, it must be true that he who believes has eternal life right now. True, not because I can understand it, let alone explain it, but true because this is what the One that came from Heaven has said.

The Word of God that tells us Jesus is the bread of life is the most important thing that Jesus teaches us, for it is nothing less than how we are saved from Hell and given Heaven. And Jesus tells us that we have Heaven and we have it right now. We might still throw our hands up in frustration and exclaim, “But I don’t see it!” But this is why our salvation demands faith. There is no saint or member of God’s church on earth that is immune from death, fear, sin, and temptation. Even the great apostles prayed to God, *“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil”*. But this is why we claim the great treasure of Christ with our faith. Christ is eternal life, joy, righteousness, and blessedness and all of this is ours through faith in the Bread of Life. Our eyes do not see the heavenly rewards, our hands don’t touch it, our mouths don’t taste it, nor do any of our senses experience it, but it is still ours through faith. We hear God’s Word tell us that we live by the Bread that came from Heaven, and that should be enough for us this life.

This claim of Jesus, that He is the bread of Heaven, the bread of life, can be irritating and offensive to all those who live by their own reason, instead of God’s wisdom. But as those who have been drawn to the Father, we close our eyes and blind our reason, and we live by Faith. And those who live by Faith now, have the promise that they will also live into eternity. Amen.

