



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

August 15th, 2021 A.D. The 12th 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.

Introit

(From Psalm 111)

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.

His praise endures forever!

Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

Great are the works of the LORD,

studied by all who delight in them.

Full of splendor and majesty is his work,

and his righteousness endures forever.

He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;

the LORD is gracious and merciful.

He provides food for those who fear him;

he remembers his covenant forever.

He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever.

Holy and awesome is his name!

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 – John 6:51-69

⁵¹[Jesus said:] “I 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.”

⁵²The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” ⁵³So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my

blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. ⁵⁵For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not as the fathers ate and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?” ⁶¹But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, “Do you take offense at this? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But there are some of you who do not believe.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) ⁶⁵And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.”

⁶⁶After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus said to the Twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, ⁶⁹and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”

Sermon – † *Believing Disciples* † (*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

- Erma (mother of Rita Tiedt) - recovering
- 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

- Del Block - The Gardens

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... Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow His steps in the way that leads to life eternal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Concluding Prayers

Almighty and most gracious God and Father, we implore You to turn the hearts of all who have forsaken the faith once delivered to Your Church, especially those who have wandered from it or are in doubt through the corruption of Your truth. Mercifully visit and restore them that in gladness of heart they may take pleasure in Your Word and be made wise to salvation through faith in Your Son, 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.



✠ *Believing Disciples* ✠

Today's Scripture lesson is the end of Jesus' Bread of Life Discourse that is found in John 6. Up until this point, we have been relatively comfortable with John's account – sitting back and watching how Jesus' enemies and the crowds of people following Him deal with His miraculous feeding of the 5000, His walking on water, and of course – His teachings. We're not all that surprised when we see that the crowds essentially just want more bread from Jesus or that the Jews are upset with His ideas. We're not all that surprised because these people were not Christians, and so we would not expect them to understand and follow Jesus. Of course that name, "Christian" had not yet been used, but many in the crowd were not what we would call disciples, or followers, of Jesus. But they were there, and today, when we see some of Jesus disciples, we might become a little uncomfortable, because we see that just being a disciple of Jesus – something that we might identify with ourselves - doesn't necessarily mean that we are in the right relationship with God.

Jesus says in the beginning of today's Gospel lesson, *"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."* Jesus is the bread that gives eternal life to the world. At the

incarnation, the Son of God took upon Himself our human nature, so that He could offer His body as a sacrifice for our sin. Now, He comes to us in the Sacrament of the Altar, offering His body and blood so that we might have the benefits of His sacrifice for our own.

John tells us that the Jews had some questions about this, asking how Jesus could give them His flesh to eat. But Jesus responds that the people must come to Him with faith – saying, “...*unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.*” Our Lutheran Confessions state that the Jews believed Jesus was talking about eating his flesh as we would eat a steak or any other type of normal food. But Jesus was talking of a sacramental eating, where the Word of God is combined with bread and wine so that people may receive the benefits of this promise through faith in Him. Jesus said, that whoever eats this bread will live forever.

At this point in our text the disciples, not just the 12, but a larger group of people who had been following Jesus, say that all of this is a “hard saying”. Maybe hard to understand, but definitely hard to accept. Jesus asks, “*What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before?*” – talking about His death, resurrection and ascension – and says some of you do not believe.

Now remember, we know that Jesus is not talking to the Pharisees or the Scribes here, or at least not only them. He is not talking to the crowds who have been chasing Him all over the region for various reasons, or at least not only to them. John tells us when Jesus says, “*There are some of you who do not believe.*” Jesus is talking about the disciples. Maybe not the 12 disciples, but disciples nonetheless – those who have been following Him. These are not the Jews who wouldn’t believe, or the common crowd. These are disciples, His followers, who are grumbling and would not believe. And as John tells us, eventually turn back and no longer walk with Jesus.

This can be a little troubling for us today, because we often identify ourselves as disciples of Jesus. We claim that we’re His followers today and link being a disciple with being a believer. We link following Jesus today, with believing in Jesus or having faith in Him. But our text seems to suggest that while everyone who believes in Jesus is a disciple, not all disciples are believers!

If this is surprising, maybe we need think for a moment or two just what it means to have faith in Jesus or to believe in Him. Doing so, we might discover that having faith in Jesus is more than just knowing “about” Jesus. There are plenty of people who know all about what the Bible says and yet have hardened their hearts to the point where they do not believe in Christ as their Savior. Likewise, having saving faith in Jesus is more than just having a blind optimism that things will work out for the best. While having faith in Christ assures us of our salvation and eternal life, sometimes our faith in Christ causes us to suffer, to be persecuted, or to bear crosses in this life.

And so instead of thinking of faith as just intellectual knowledge of Christ, and an outlook on life that comes from knowing Him, perhaps we would do well to think of faith as *allegiance*. Think of faith in Christ as not only trusting in Him, but also as our loyalty and devotion to Him - putting Him before everything else in our lives. Peter seems to have this when Jesus asks the 12 disciples if they want to leave to. Peter says, “*Lord, to whom shall we go?*” Peter knows there is no where else to go. For Peter at this point, Jesus is the first and only option they have. He and the rest of the disciples don’t just know about Jesus. They have allegiance to Him – and they will go on to put Him before everything else in their lives.

It is this type of faith that those who follow Jesus need to have to be believers and be saved from their sin. To be saved from all of the times that we have failed to trust in Him and put Him first in our lives. While disciples may walk with Jesus and follow Him, we need to be reminded that we are saved by faith, not by good works. And that this faith grows as we encounter Christ time and time again through His Word and Sacraments. All throughout this Bread of Life

Discourse in John 6, Jesus has been teaching the people His Word. And Peter acknowledges that these words are, “eternal life”. This eternal life is given to us by Jesus, the Bread of Life, not by appearing to follow Him, but by having true faith in Him as our Savior. Amen.

