



# Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

**August 29<sup>th</sup> 2021 A.D. – 14<sup>th</sup> 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 119:129-136)*

Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them.

<sup>130</sup> **The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.**

<sup>131</sup> I open my mouth and pant, because I long for your commandments.

<sup>132</sup> **Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your way with those who love your name.**

<sup>133</sup> Keep steady my steps according to your promise, and let no iniquity get dominion over me.

<sup>134</sup> **Redeem me from man's oppression, that I may keep your precepts.**

<sup>135</sup> Make your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes.

<sup>136</sup> **My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your law.**

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

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## Scripture Lesson – Mark 7:14-23

<sup>14</sup>[Jesus] called the people to him again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup>There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him." <sup>17</sup>And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. <sup>18</sup>And he said to them, "Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, <sup>19</sup>since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?" (Thus he declared all foods clean.) <sup>20</sup>And he said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. <sup>21</sup>For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, <sup>22</sup>coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

### The Athanasian Creed

Whoever desires to be saved must, above all, hold the catholic faith. Whoever does not keep it whole and undefiled will without doubt perish eternally. And the catholic faith is this, **that we worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the substance. For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Holy Spirit is another. But the Godhead of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is one: the glory equal, the majesty coeternal.**

Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit: the Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, the Holy Spirit uncreated; the Father infinite, the Son infinite, the Holy Spirit infinite; the Father eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal.

**And yet there are not three Eternals, but one Eternal, just as there are not three Uncreated or three Infinites, but one Uncreated and one Infinite.**

In the same way, the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, the Holy Spirit almighty; and yet there are not three Almighty's, but one Almighty.

**So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God; and yet there are not three Gods, but one God.**

So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord; and yet there are not three Lords, but one Lord.

**Just as we are compelled by the Christian truth to acknowledge each distinct person as God and Lord, so also are we prohibited by the catholic religion to say that there are three Gods or Lords.**

The Father is not made nor created nor begotten by anyone. The Son is neither made nor created, but begotten of the Father alone.

**The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son, neither made nor created nor begotten, but proceeding.**

Thus, there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits.

**And in this Trinity none is before or after another; none is greater or less than another; but the whole three persons are coeternal with each other and coequal, so that in all things, as has been stated above, the Trinity in Unity and Unity in Trinity is to be worshiped.**

Therefore, whoever desires to be saved must think thus about the Trinity.

**But it is also necessary for everlasting salvation that one faithfully believe the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, it is the right faith that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is at the same time both God and man.**

He is God, begotten from the substance of the Father before all ages; and He is man, born from the substance of His mother in this age: perfect God and perfect man, composed of a rational soul and human flesh; equal to the Father with respect to His divinity, less than the Father with respect to His humanity.

**Although He is God and man, He is not two, but one Christ: one, however, not by the conversion of the divinity into flesh, but by the assumption of the humanity into God; one altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person.**

For as the rational soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ, who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead, ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

**At His coming all people will rise again with their bodies and give an account concerning their own deeds. And those who have done good will enter into eternal life, and those who have done evil into eternal fire. This is the catholic faith; whoever does not believe it faithfully and firmly cannot be saved.**

### 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**

- Oliver (son of Joel and Katia Knutson) - baptism today
- Sunday School children and teachers

#### **Entrusting into God's Care**

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

#### **Healing**

- Dennis (friend of Pete Larson) - health issues
- Ray (father of Deb Mills) - hospitalization
- Dave (father of Jennet Volden) - health issues
- Bonnie Bubke - recovering after oral surgery
- Erma (mother of Rita Tiedt) - recovering at care center
- 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**

- Valerie Koelper - Grand Living at Indian Creek

**Mourning**

- Larry (brother of Ben Mims) - died 8/17
- Carl (brother of Leonard Tiedt) - died 8/19
- Mavis (aunt of Duane Pfeffer) - died 8/3

**Serving Our Country**

- Mitchell & Benjamin (relatives of Schoens & Amy Smith)- serving in the U.S. Navy
- 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 God, the source of all that is just and good, nourish in us every virtue and bring to completion every good intent that we may grow in grace and bring forth the fruit of good works; 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, merciful Father, Your thoughts are not our thoughts, Your ways are not our ways. In Your wisdom You have permitted disastrous floods, fires, and storms to befall our nation. We implore You, let not the hearts of Your people despair nor our faith fail us, but sustain and comfort us. Direct all efforts to attend the injured, console the bereaved, and protect the helpless. Bring hope and healing that we may find relief and restoration; 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.**



## ✠ *Iota Has Passed* ✠

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

Most people of faith, that is people who believe in a god or gods, more than likely would say that in order to please god or the gods, you have to do something. There seems to be something hard wired into us saying that to make god happy, you have to do certain things or refrain from doing others. Muslims believe that you must keep the Five Pillars of Islam to please the god they call Allah. These five pillars include praying, fasting, and pilgrimages to Mecca. Buddhists believe that one must rid themselves of all desire, not necessarily to please a god, but to obtain happiness in this life and maybe even the next. Even many Christians believe that only keeping the 10 Commandments is essential to having a proper relationship with the Triune God who reveals Himself in the Old and New Testaments. The problem with this way of thinking – that we must please God through our actions or our work or our own efforts – is Jesus.

In our text from the Gospel of Mark, Jesus comes along and throws a great big monkey wrench into the notion that keeping the Law, by itself, is pleasing to God. Now, you may remember from last week's Gospel lesson from earlier in Mark 7, that Jesus attacked the tradition of the elders and the traditions of men that came about as they tried to put a fence, if you will, around God's Law. But today in our Scripture lesson, Jesus doesn't go after just the teachings or traditions of men, He reinterprets the written Law itself! He brings a new understanding of the very Word of God.

One of the criticisms I often here of Christians today is that we like to pick and choose what parts of the Bible we'll follow. So, when someone disagrees with the sexual ethics of our Christian faith, they'll often ask why Christians eat shell fish or wear cloths made out two types of fabric, as these things are forbidden in the Old Testament. And indeed, Leviticus 11:10 says, "*But anything in the seas or the rivers that does not have fins and scales, of the swarming creatures in the waters and of the living creatures that are in the waters, is detestable to you.*" Leviticus 19:19 also says, "*You shall keep my statutes. You shall not let your cattle breed with a different kind. You shall not sow your field with two kinds of seed, nor shall you wear a garment of cloth made of two kinds of material.*" But today we don't fail to observe those laws because we are lazy, ignorant, and/or hypocritical. We don't observe that part of the Law because Jesus says we don't have to! In verse 15 of our text from Mark's Gospel Jesus says, "*There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him...*" This completely flies in the face of Leviticus and the Jewish people who heard Jesus say this would have known it. They would have asked, "How can Jesus completely change God's Law?" And the simple answer is – He must change the Law. That is why He was sent – to fulfill the prophecies of all the great prophets.

No some might say that this can't happen. They might point out that in Matthew 5 during the sermon on the Mount Jesus Himself says, "*Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished*" (Matthew 5:17-18). And all of that is certainly true. But Jesus says there that, He has not come to abolish the Law, *but to fulfill the Law*. And He goes on to say that not a dot will pass from the Law, *until all is accomplished*. So, the question now becomes, is all accomplished?

St. Paul certainly thinks so, because in Romans 10:4 he writes, "*Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.*" The iota and dot have passed away because when Jesus hung on the cross in John 19[:30] He said, "*It is finished!*". Therefore, as Jesus says in our

text, and as Peter found out in Acts when he received a vision to eat animals that were previously thought to be unclean, it is not what goes into a person that defiles them, but rather what comes out.

This does not mean that we can do whatever it is that we want in life. In our Christian faith, there is not an “Anything Goes” freedom or morality. Just go back to the Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus teaches us what it means to be a believer or a disciple of Christ. There instead of loosening the law, He ups the ante. Jesus says in Matthew 5:21-22, “*You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.*” Or Jesus says the Law says you shall not commit adultery. But He says if you look at someone lustfully you have already committed adultery in your heart! See – being a disciple of Jesus doesn’t mean you can do whatever you want. It actually means that more is expected from you. More is expected from you because you have been forgiven. And you have been sanctified, or made holy, by God’s Spirit.

If we go back to our text we see a list of things that Jesus says come out of the heart that defile people – *Evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness* (Mark 7:21). Thinking about that list - doesn’t that look like someone who is living according the flesh, and not according to God’s Spirit? Doesn’t that list of defiling sin look like someone who is living without boundaries in their life? That is not how we are supposed to live. We live according the Spirit. We have the fruits of the Spirit which are *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control* (Galatians 5:22-23). If those things are present in our lives, we are not living out-of-control. We are living by the Spirit.

Which brings us to the heart of what is called the New Covenant – which is built on grace, the grace of God’s plans and action in our lives. The Old Covenant was based on the Law, the Law that shows us our sin and condemns us. And it is with the Law that all other religions of the world say we must save ourselves with. But this can only lead to failure. But the New Covenant, which Jesus brings, shows us God’s love and mercy and builds our salvation upon them.

God is not looking for us to keep an outward observance of the Law, with sinful hearts and minds. Jesus has come. He has suffered, died and rose again from the grave to fulfill the Law and bring about a New Covenant for all people. One that is no longer based on the observance of the Law, but on something greater - God’s grace and mercy. And therefore, we live, not without boundaries in life and according the flesh, but we live according the Spirit. We live undefiled with thankful and joyous hearts for the salvation that He freely gives to us and to all people. Amen.

