



# Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

**September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 A.D. – 16<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 116:1-9)

I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.

**<sup>2</sup> Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

<sup>3</sup> The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;

**I suffered distress and anguish.**

<sup>4</sup> Then I called on the name of the LORD: “O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!”

**<sup>5</sup> Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful.**

<sup>6</sup> The LORD preserves the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me.

**<sup>7</sup> Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.**

<sup>8</sup> For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling;

**<sup>9</sup> I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living.**

*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 9:14-29)

<sup>14</sup>When they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. <sup>15</sup>And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to [Jesus] and greeted him. <sup>16</sup>And he asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” <sup>17</sup>And someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. <sup>18</sup>And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.” <sup>19</sup>And he answered them, “O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me.” <sup>20</sup>And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth.

<sup>21</sup>And Jesus asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. <sup>22</sup>And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” <sup>23</sup>And Jesus said to him, “If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.” <sup>24</sup>Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!” <sup>25</sup>And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” <sup>26</sup>And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.” <sup>27</sup>But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. <sup>28</sup>And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” <sup>29</sup>And he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.”

**Sermon** – † *Away from Ourselves* † *(A copy is included at the end of this service.)*

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### **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**

- Owen (son of Albert & Caroline Carr) - baptism today
- Dennis (friend of Pete Larson) - good report

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

- Richard (relative of Carol Grimminger) - leukemia
- 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**

- Austin (grandson of Fran Struck) - terminal cancer
- Dipak (friend of Greg Dunn) - hospitalization
- Bonnie Bubke - recovering after oral surgery
- Velma Ziesemer - recovering after surgery
- 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**

- Candi Engel– Garnet Place

### **Mourning**

- Ray (father of Deb Mills) - died 9/4
- Erma (mother of Rita Tiedt) - died 8/30
- Carl (brother of Leonard Tiedt) - died 8/19

### **Serving Our Country**

- Ben - serving in the Iowa National Guard
- 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.... Lord Jesus Christ, our support and defense in every need, continue to preserve Your Church in safety, govern her by Your goodness, and bless her with Your peace; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Concluding Prayers

Almighty God, You have promised to hear the petitions of those who ask in Your Son's name. Mercifully incline Your ear to us who have now made our prayers and supplications to You, and grant that those things that we have faithfully asked according to Your Will we may receive to meet our need and bring glory to You; 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.**



✠ *Away from Ourselves* ✠

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

A few weeks ago I found myself at the doctor's office. Actually, I was scheduled to see a nurse practitioner so I guess I found myself at the nurse practitioner's office. Regardless, after getting checked in and taken to an exam room, the nurse practitioner came in and asked why I was there. I told her that my heel hurt when I would go out running. She asked me how long I had this problem and, after thinking about it for a moment, I told her it had been bothering me for about two years. I could tell that she was somewhat surprised, especially when she asked me why I had waited so long to see someone about this problem. I told her that I've been a runner for over 30 years and I always thought that I would be able to take care of the problem myself.

Today in our Scripture lesson from Mark 9, we see that I'm not the only one who ever thought that they could take care of a problem by themselves. Peter, James, and John were coming down from the mountain where they had seen Jesus' transfiguration. During that time they saw Jesus talking to Moses and Elijah and Jesus shine with all of His glory and splendor as the Almighty God. It would have been the spiritual high point in anyone's life. Something we can barely even imagine. But as they came down the mountain with Jesus, they soon became all too aware that they had left this incredible experience of the transfiguration behind and were right back in the middle of the sinful world we all know.

Peter, James, and John saw a large crowd of people gathered around the rest of the disciples and Jesus' enemies as they were arguing. It was a terrible scene. A father had brought his son to the disciples. From childhood he had been plagued and tormented a demon. In this boy we can see all of the destructive malice of Satan himself. This demon would seize the boy and throw him down to the ground. He would foam at the mouth and grind his teeth. At times the child would be thrown into fire and water, so we can only imagine the scars that must have covered his body.

And on top of all this, the boy couldn't hear or speak. What a tragic situation for not just the boy, but also his helpless father.

But earlier in the Gospel of Mark, in 6:7 we read, "*Jesus called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits.*" Later in 6:13 we read that the disciples, who were now called "*apostles*" had indeed cast out many demons. And so it makes perfect sense that the father in our text today, in Mark 9, brought his son to the disciples to see if they could help the boy. He must have heard about the twelve disciples driving out demons and had so much hope when he found them. But then so much disappointment when they could not help.

But as the Scribes argue with the disciples, probably "rubbing it in" that the disciples could not help this boy, Jesus asks the father how long all this had been going on. Telling Jesus that his son has been like this from childhood, he begs Jesus, "*But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us*" (9:22b). And note Jesus' response. He says, "*If you can! All things are possible for the one who believes!*" (9:23) Jesus says the question is not His ability. He is the Son of God, whose power is unlimited and whose love and compassion are never failing constants. The question is, does the man have faith to receive the gifts of God. And the response of the man is so genuine and authentic I believe we can all relate to it. He says, "*I believe; help my unbelief*" (9:24). And Jesus drives out the demon from the boy and tell it never to return.

Now the nine disciples who had failed to help the boy and his father earlier asked Jesus why they couldn't cast out this demon. They had success earlier, why not now? Jesus replies, "*This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer*" (9:29). To understand this, and really understand our whole text for today, we need to understand what Jesus is saying here in this verse. And we begin that understanding by going back to Mark 6 when Jesus gave them the authority to drive out demons. They were sent out by Jesus to do this, which is why in that part of the Gospel of Mark they were called apostles. But that mission, if you will, was over. Here they no longer had that charge by Jesus and the authority to drive out demons. Here, they were trying to drive out this demon by their own power and thus failed.

But if they didn't have Jesus' command and authority to help this boy and his father, what were they to do? The answer is found...in the exam room with the nurse practitioner. When my foot hurt, I thought that I could take of the problem myself. It was only when I realized that I couldn't, that I had to get help outside of myself. The same thing happens with the boy's father in our text. When he can't help his son, he turns away from himself – at first to the disciples, but ultimately the Son of God, Jesus Christ. And as he says, he believes – that is he does this in faith. He believes that Jesus can help so he comes to Him, but he also knows his belief or faith is not perfect and therefore he comes with faith to be helped with his unbelief!

The disciples didn't do this. Trying to drive out the demon, they went it alone, and they failed. So, Jesus tells them they should have prayed. In prayer, they would have taken their eyes off of themselves and their own abilities and turned to God for help. That, Jesus says, would have helped the boy and his father.

This story in the Gospel of Mark then is, is God teaching us what it means to be a disciple. In our lives we don't always live up on the Mountain of Transfiguration, reveling in the glory of God. Rather we're down in the world where we are all too aware of the sin and evil around us. At times this evil around us is the awful and terrible manifestation of the devil's work – as it was with the demon possessed boy. At times this evil is the result of our own sin or shortcomings – as it was with the disciples trusting in themselves, rather than trusting in God. Sometimes, the evil around is brought about the enemies of God's people, such as the Scribes in our text. And

sometimes just we find ourselves with a sore foot reminding us of our mortal nature in this world ruined by sin. But whatever the reminder is, the solution for Jesus' disciples of sin and evil is always the same. It is turning away from ourselves and to our Lord Jesus Christ.

This is not to say that all of our problems in this life will be taken away if we only believe. Our faith in Jesus cannot be used to manipulate God into doing our will. And faith that oversteps the promises of God is not faith or trust in the One True God, but a creation of a false god made in our own image. But the true faith of a disciple of Christ grabs hold of the great promises of God for our salvation. True faith knows that Christ has come, has suffered, died, and has risen from the grave so that our sins would be forgiven and salvation obtained by God's grace. Therefore, in this world even believers may still suffer, but we know that Christ has overcome this world.

And so don't wait two years burdened with the problems in your life. Don't wait another minute trying to take care of everything that is wrong by yourself or with your own abilities or wisdom. Christ invites you and the Spirit is calling you to come to God in prayer. He is calling you take the attention away from yourselves and keep your eyes fixed, and your life centered, on Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

