



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

September 19, 2021 A.D. – The 17th 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.

Psalm

(Psalm 37)

P Delight yourself in the LORD,

C **and he will give you the desires of your heart.**

Commit your way to the LORD;

trust in him, and he will act.

He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,

and your justice as the noonday.

Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him;

fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!

C ♪ **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) under the Worship Resources tab and then continue with the Nicene Creed. Everyone else may continue the service as printed....

Scripture Lesson –

(Mark 9:30-37)

³⁰[The disciples] went on from there and passed through Galilee. And [Jesus] did not want anyone to know, ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise.” ³²But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him.

³³And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you discussing on the way?” ³⁴But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. ³⁵And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.” ³⁶And he took a child

and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me.”

Sermon – ✠ Go Where You’re Looking ✠ *(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

Thanksgiving

- Velma Ziesemer - recovering after surgery
- Nancy Owens - recovering after surgery

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

- Carol Edwards - recovering after hospitalization
- Oliver (nephew of Elms) - NICU
- Austin (grandson of Fran Struck) - terminal cancer
- Dipak (friend of Greg Dunn) - hospitalization
- Bonnie Bubke - recovering after oral surgery
- Ed Schumacher - shoulder injury
- Kim Neuhaus - recovering after surgery
- Dale Stonewall - recovering at home after surgery
- Faye Sieck - health issues

Shut-Ins

- Nadine Wax - at home

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... O God, whose strength is made perfect in weakness, grant us humility and childlike faith that we may please You in both will and deed; 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

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.



Go Where You're Looking

When I began to learn how to drive a car, my father taught me a very important lesson. He told me that when you are driving down the road, don't look at the cars coming towards you from the other way. Especially at night, he said, don't look at the headlights of the cars coming at you from the other direction. The reason for this was very simple. It seems that people have a tendency to "go where they're looking". That is if you're driving and you look off to the left, you tend to steer the car to the left. Or if you look to the right, the tendency is to go to the right. So obviously, as you're driving down the road, you want to resist the temptation to look at the other cars coming toward you so you won't inadvertently steer into them.

This idea that people "go where they're looking" applies to other areas of life as well. To get nice straight lines when cutting the grass, people will often keep their eyes fixed on an object in the distance as they push or steer their mower. As a caddie, I was trained on the golf course to keep my eyes fixed on the last spot I saw that golf ball as we walked down the fairway. And even on a bicycle, if you check for traffic by looking over your left shoulder, you'll often notice you're bicycle drifting towards the left. Or if you're turning a corner on a bicycle at high speed, you are taught not to look at the corner itself, but actually to look at the exit of the corner because there is always the tendency to "go where you're looking."

Looking at our Scripture Reading today, it seems as if Jesus might agree with this idea of "going where you're looking" because this is now the second time in the Gospel of Mark that He teaches His disciples about His upcoming suffering, death, and resurrection. Previously in Mark 8:29, Peter boldly declared that Jesus was the Christ – that is, the Messiah. Then we read just two short verses later, "*[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days*

rise again” (Mark 8:31). And then Peter, who just made this great confession that Jesus is the Messiah, pulls Jesus off to the side and tries to rebuke Jesus for what He said about His suffering and death.

In our text today Jesus and the disciples are in Galilee, that is – back in Israel. And Jesus is trying to keep a low profile so that He can spend time teaching His disciples. And what is the lesson He is teaching the disciples you may ask? Well, it is nothing other than what He taught them before. Jesus says, “*The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise*” (Mark 9:31). Unfortunately, we read in verse 32 of our text that the disciples once again didn’t understand what Jesus was saying and were afraid to ask Him for an explanation. It seems that disciples had their own ideas of who Jesus should be and what the Messiah should do. And Jesus talking about His death and resurrection just didn’t fit in with their expectations.

So what does Jesus do? Does He give up on the 12? Does He go look for 12 other disciples who might be a little more quick to understand? No. What Jesus does is teach them a 3rd time! In Mark 10:33-34 Jesus says, “*...the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise.*” Three times in the 13 chapters of Mark before Jesus is betrayed by Judas, Jesus not only predicts His death, but also His resurrection. It seems that Jesus wants to keep His disciples’ eyes fixed on the cross and the empty tomb as He heads there.

We can understand why Jesus does this when we read Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians. There, writing years after Jesus’ death and resurrection, Paul says in I Corinthians 15: “*And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain... ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied*” (I Corinthians 15:14, 17-19). Therefore Jesus spends so much time teaching the disciples about these things to prepare them for the suffering that is to come through His crucifixion, but also for the glory that will follow in the resurrection. Jesus wants the disciples to keep their eyes fixed on the resurrection because it is the guarantee of their own resurrection and their victory over death and sin through faith in Him.

Unfortunately, like the disciples, we also sometimes lose sight of the cross and the empty tomb and end up “going where we are looking.” In our lives, it’s easy to be like Peter and focus on what we think God should be like or what He should be doing. When this happens we’re often led into idolatry. During the pandemic it has been so easy to focus on numbers, research, policy and unfortunately politics. And when this happens, when we take our attention away from Christ, we often become discouraged, or frustrated, or even just plain tired of all we have to deal with.

Even as a church, it’s easy to take our eyes off of where we are supposed to have them. I’m proud and happy to say that we as a congregation are involved in many ministries and there is a lot of things happening around the church. Quilts and meals are being made. The Food Pantry is helping provide meals while Stephen Ministers are providing Christian care. Joy the Comfort Dog continues to be trained for her work. The LWML, the Trustees, the Elders, the Board of Education and all of the people who work with them are ensuring that ministry continues to happen here at Bethany. But we must remember not to just focus on the ministries themselves. But rather keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and His atoning death and His glorious resurrection. Because when we focus on Christ and the gifts that He freely gives to us we not only receive the strength and

encouragement live as His people, but also, by His grace, go exactly where we are looking – to our own glorious resurrection.

The good news today is that just as He did with the disciples, Jesus doesn't give up calling us to repentant faith. Three times in Mark's Gospel Jesus taught them about His death and resurrection before His betrayal. He did this so that the disciples would focus on what was important – the resurrection and eternal life. Today God continues to call people to faith and repentance through the proclamation of His Word. And God has promised, that everyone who keeps their eyes fixed on Jesus and His glorious resurrection, will go exactly where they are looking – to Jesus Christ our Lord and eternal life with Him. Amen.

