



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

October 10th, 2021 A.D. – 20th 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

(From Psalm 112)

Praise the LORD! Blessèd is the man who fears the LORD,
who greatly delights in his commandments!

Wealth and riches are in his house,

and his righteousness endures forever.

Light dawns in the darkness for the upright;

he is gracious, merciful, and righteous.

It is well with the man who deals generously and lends;

who conducts his affairs with justice.

For the righteous will never be moved;

he will be remembered forever.

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

(Mark 10:17-22)

¹⁷As [Jesus] was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.'" ²⁰And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth." ²¹And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." ²²Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Sermon – † *More Than Expected* † (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

- Nancy Owens - good medical report
- Carol Edwards - recovered after hospitalization

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

- Ed Schumacher - shoulder injury
- Dale Stonewall - recovering at home after surgery
- Faye Sieck - health issues

Shut-Ins

- Wayne Schilling - Linn Manor Care Center, Marion

Mourning

- Mildred (grandmother of Carolyn Zimmerman) - died 9/30

- Ray (father of Deb Mills) - died 9/4

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, whose grace always precedes and follows us, help us to forsake all trust in earthly gain and to find in You our heavenly treasure; for You live and reign with the Father 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.



✠ *More Than Expected* ✠

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

If and when time and money become available, most of us find shopping to be an enjoyable, if not exciting experience. It seems that when we are shopping most of us have some measure of satisfaction when we find what we need, want, or are looking for.

The mood sometimes changes however when we checkout or maybe when the credit card bill comes. “How did the bill become so large” we ask, as the total is often more than expected. If this happens, a wonderful shopping experience can turn sour very quickly. The same thing happens with the cell phone or the cable bill, things we enjoy until we see all of the extra charges adding up. Or even working on projects around the house. We look forward to their completion, but they always seem to end up costing us more time, money, and effort than planned. So many things in life are always demanding more!

The young man in our Gospel lesson this morning comes to Jesus with a narrow perception of who Jesus is and what He does for people. Although his running to and kneeling before Jesus show us his humility, the rich young man merely comes, expecting clever self-help advice from a wise teacher.

“*Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?*” he asks. This is surely an appropriate question, one that I often tell people is the most important one in their lives. However, by asking what he must do - there is a very real danger for the rich young man. A danger to look at salvation from the way of God’s Law and thus placing the burden upon himself. And it appears that he is ready to do this.

Despite Jesus giving the rich young man a hint of His divinity when He reminds him that only God is good, the young man is too focused upon his own merits to notice. He brags about his good works, something no one would do standing before the Son of God. Yet he views Jesus as only a source to provide the final touch to an already commendable life. But if approached from the way of the Law, Jesus will remind the young man that the Law demands more than even the most upright person can expect to give.

Today in our times, there are many people who look at Jesus in similar ways to the man in our Gospel lesson. They look at Jesus as the ultimate source of affirmation of one’s life style. As a confirmation of one’s choice. In Jesus they will see the source of self-help advice, motivational guidance, and even dietary support. But if we let our relationship with Christ rest upon what we do; if we let our relationship with Christ be determined by the Law; than Jesus will always demand more than what is expected.

Rather than giving advice, Jesus makes a surprising, life changing demand of this young fellow. He says, “...*go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven.*” You might tell yourself that if Jesus told you to do this, you would do it immediately. But let’s be honest, there are a lot of things that Jesus tells us to do, that we don’t. But here, Jesus asks the man to give up the most important thing in his life, the one thing he was not willing to sacrifice at that moment. Knowing the man will not do what He says, Jesus uses this opportunity to expose the man’s true condition, that he is not as perfect as it would seem, but rather that sin and death dwell inside of him.

Although Judaism at that time did encourage its adherents to practice charity, it was unusual for Jesus to require such an from a prospective disciple. And this is not a text in the Bible that tells us that all Christians should sell what they have and give the money to the poor. Rather,

Jesus is using the same Law of God that the rich young man came to Him with to cut to his heart. For the man the Law is no longer a source of selfish pride, but rather come crashing into his life, where he wishes it would not be.

The Law of God always crashes into the darkest, the most remote corners of our lives where we neither expect nor want God to reach. In Amos 5:12 God says, “*For I know how many are your transgressions and how great are your sins...*” Nothing escapes God’s attention. He knows all our offenses in all their detail. He knows the death lurking inside all of us. Whereas we may prefer a Jesus who affirms our good works in the community, God’s Law confronts the sinner whose gossip, grudges, and insufficient charity toward others actually harm the community. Whereas we prefer a Jesus who compliments our faithfulness to home and family, He wields the Law to confront the sinner whose secret thoughts and acts are far too often unfaithful. Whereas we prefer a Jesus who blindly gives us the necessities of life, He holds up the mirror of the Law to confront the sinner who typically forgets to receive His good gifts with thanks and praise, as the man in our Gospel lesson went away sad because he had “*great possessions*”.

But when God cuts us with the razor sharp edge of the Law, it is always to prepare us for the healing of the Gospel. For God does not want to simply be the one who helps us achieve enlightenment or our ideal body mass. God wants to be our Savior. And so, while the Law is always demanding more from us, we see that in Jesus Christ God is always giving more to us.

In spite of the human arrogance to assume success with the Law, Jesus takes the burden of the Law upon Himself, since its demands are beyond what we can do. He does this for the young man in our text and for us today because He loves us. Where we want a wise teacher or the young man wants some advice, Jesus says “no” and gives us infinitely more by going to the cross. Where it seems that we cannot give up anything for God, Jesus gives everything for us, even dying on the cross. And God’s love was not just a one time act, years ago. Today the resurrected Jesus continues to come to us through the Word and Sacraments to remove the burden of the Law from us and grant us His forgiveness so that we can be assured of our salvation.

The rich young man in our text was seeking life. He came expecting to be uplifted by a pat on the back and an easy answer to his question. To obtain this life, all he wanted was some special information or some wise advice to tweak the way he lived. He came to Jesus seeking life in the Law, but Jesus used the Law to reveal the depth of the man’s sin. But in doing so, Jesus ultimately showed him and everyone the depth of His love for all people. For while the Law of God will always demand more than we or anyone can possibly give, on the cross Jesus gave everything there He possibly could. And in the end when all people are required to give an account of their lives before God, with Jesus there is always more than enough to pay that bill. Amen.

