



# Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 A.D.

The 21<sup>st</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 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 119:9-16*

How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.

<sup>10</sup> **With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments!**

<sup>11</sup> I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

<sup>12</sup> **Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes!**

<sup>13</sup> With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth.

<sup>14</sup> **In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches.**

<sup>15</sup> I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.

<sup>16</sup> **I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.**

*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 Nicene Creed. Everyone else may continue the service as printed....*

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## Scripture Lesson

*(Mark 10:23-31)*

<sup>23</sup>Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" <sup>24</sup>And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup>It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." <sup>26</sup>And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, "Then who can be saved?" <sup>27</sup>Jesus looked at them and said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God." <sup>28</sup>Peter began to say to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you." <sup>29</sup>Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, <sup>30</sup>who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. <sup>31</sup>But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

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**

- Holden Caldwell (grandson of Shirley McElroy) - baptized today

### **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**

- Faye Sieck - hospitalization
- Tim & Nancy (parents of Christine Erickson) - health issues
- Ed Schumacher - shoulder injury
- Dale Stonewall - recovering at home after surgery

### **Shut-Ins**

- Candi Engel - Garnet Place

### **Mourning**

- Brenda (sister-in-law of Happels) - died 10/8
- Mildred (grandmother of Carolyn Zimmerman) - died 9/30

### **Serving Our Country**

- Ben - serving in the Iowa National Guard
- Mitchell & Benjamin (relatives of Schoens & Amy Smith)- serving in the U.S. Navy
- Taylor & 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, Your divine wisdom sets in order all things in heaven and on earth. Put away from us all things hurtful and give us those things that are beneficial for us; 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**

Lord Jesus Christ, as once You shared in our human toil and thus hallowed the work of our hands, bless and prosper those who maintain the industries and service sectors of the land. Give them a right regard for their labors, and grant them the just reward for their work that they may find joy in serving You and in supplying our needs; for You live and reign with the Father 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.**



✠ *Privilege* ✠

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

Over the last year or so, there has been a lot talk in certain circles about privilege. Specifically, many people have been asking if one group of people has some sort of advantage in life through wrongs done in the past. Of course, much of that discussion in this country centers around race. But it's not the only discussion.

Recently, the New York City School District eliminated a test that students would take to see which of them would get into advance classes and schools. Opponents of this test said that students who came from wealthy families had an unfair advantage because they could afford special test preparation training, that poorer students could not. Having the wealth to be able to do this is considered privileged and unfair.

Now perhaps you don't agree with those who eliminated that test in New York, but most of us do believe that wealth does convey a certain amount of privilege in this world. On October 12<sup>th</sup> CNN reported that the world's richest man, Elon Musk who essentially owns Tesla and SpaceX, had a personal net worth of 222 billion dollars. Oddly enough, his salary for his two companies over the last year was \$0.00 dollars. That's right – he didn't earn a single penny of wages. However, don't feel too bad for him, because from October 8<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> he actually made an incredible \$8 billion dollars because of his stock. When you have that kind of wealth to begin with, you are often privileged to continue to make even more money.

Well, when we arrive at our Gospel lesson for today we remember that Jesus had just spoken to a different rich young man. He had come to Jesus expecting some good advice from a wise teacher. However, Jesus tells him to sell everything he has and give it to the poor – demanding something beyond his ability to highlight his sinful condition and need, not for more wealth or possessions, but for a Savior.

In our Gospel lesson, Jesus now turns to His disciples. He says, "*How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the Kingdom of God!*" Mark tells us that the disciples were amazed by this – they were actually overwhelmed. Why? Because they thought that having great wealth would be a blessing and privilege from God! Just like many people today, the disciples and the Jewish people of the time believed in a type of prosperity Gospel – that riches and possessions and wealth was a sign of God's favor. To the Jewish mind in Jesus' time, it was inconceivable that riches could actually be a barrier to the kingdom of God! Today, we need to be

careful lest we believe that any type of economic prosperity to be a certain sign of God's favor or election.

Instead, we need to hear Jesus' words and hear them carefully. Wealth, and certainly not wealth that is earned in a God pleasing way, is not sinful, but it can be a serious handicap or danger. And this is not just the wealth of the super rich – the wealth of the person who is able to build their own spacecraft. Most of us know that according to historical standards around the world, even the poorest of Americans today could be considered as having wealth. And after the disciples were amazed by Jesus' first saying, He broadens it out to include everyone by saying, "*Children, how difficult it is to enter the Kingdom of God!*" But Jesus does go on to say that it is easier for a camel, (the largest animal in Palestine) to go through the eye of the needle (that is, the smallest of openings) than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.

So, what are the disadvantages or dangers of wealth and prosperity? Well, for one thing, they can destroy our morals and values. It has been said that the wealthy are tempted to know the price of everything and the value of nothing. This means that we can become so attached to the stuff of this world that we loose focus on the things that count the most – primarily our relationship with God and family and friends and everyone who is considered our neighbor.

Loosing this focus on God and those around us, along with a belief that wealth is a sign of God's favor, also puts our souls in danger - as we risk loosing the one thing required for entering the kingdom of God – a helpless, dependent faith in Christ as our Savior! How often do we see even children, who have just a little bit of money in their pocket, believe that they don't need anyone. Clinging to a handful of coins they'll say, "I'll go buy this pack of bubble gum all by myself. Then I'll pay for college."

Now knowing this sinful danger, the disciples are *exceedingly astonished*, asking "*Then who can be saved?*" To which Jesus responds, "*With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.*"

"All things are possible with God". Far too often we apply these words of our Lord in frivolous or relatively unimportant matters – maybe even in regards to gaining great wealth. But Jesus tells His disciples this so that they may know that they are saved. And this is not from the their own works or prosperity or whatever privilege they have by themselves, despite what the world may say. But this deliverance from sin and every evil comes through their faith in Him as their Lord and Savior. This salvation was won for all who call on Jesus' name through the most impossible of situations – Jesus' death and resurrection. He gave up all the riches and glory of heaven to place Himself under the law and keep it perfectly. Yet He still paid the price for sin – dying, not for His however, but for ours. And having been raised from the dead, Jesus shows us that we, as sinners, have been forgiven and have life in His name. The Son of God rising from the grave to give sinners life proves that nothing, even our salvation, is impossible with God!

And so, this text from the Gospel of Mark is not only about wealth. Jesus in our text today is really talking about hope. The hope that we have for salvation. And that hope does not rest in our possessions or how wealthy we are, or anything else about us. Rather, the hope for all people, rich and poor, slave or free, Jew or Gentile, is Jesus Christ. So let us drop any possession or love for anything that would hinder our faith and trust and love in Him. For with God, all things are possible. With Jesus, we all have the privilege of being saved through faith in Him alone. Amen.

