



# Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 A.D.

All Saints' Sunday

*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 149*

Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song,  
**his praise in the assembly of the godly!**

<sup>2</sup> Let Israel be glad in his Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!

<sup>3</sup> **Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre!**

<sup>4</sup> For the LORD takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with salvation.

<sup>5</sup> **Let the godly exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their beds.**

<sup>6</sup> Let the high praises of God be in their throats and two-edged swords in their hands,

<sup>7</sup> **to execute vengeance on the nations and punishments on the peoples,**

<sup>8</sup> to bind their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron,

<sup>9</sup> **to execute on them the judgment written!**

This is honor for all his godly ones.

**Praise the LORD!**

*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

*(Matthew 5:1-12)*

<sup>1</sup> Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

<sup>2</sup> And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

<sup>7</sup> "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup>“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

<sup>9</sup>“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

<sup>10</sup>“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

**Sermon** – † *Blessed Are The Disciples* † (A copy is included at the end of this service.)

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### **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**

Today we give thanks to God for the lives and faith of:

Bernie Rehnstrom, Dee Block, Ann Meyer, Dee Rose, Blaine Munson and Al Bachman

#### **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**

- Mary Jane Hedtke - health issues
- Lee Rathje - broken wrist, recovering after fall
- Sharon Ramsey - recovering after surgery
- Faye Sieck - recovering after hospitalization
- Ed Schumacher - shoulder injury
- Dale Stonewall - recovering at home after surgery

#### **Shut-Ins**

- Larry & Sharon Easler - Summit Pointe, Marion

#### **Mourning**

- Roland (brother of Bonnie Breiholz) - died 10/30
- Dorothy (aunt of Karen Pfeffer) - died 10/29
- Brenda (sister-in-law of Happels) - died 10/8

#### **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... Almighty and everlasting God, You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one holy communion, the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that, together with them, we may come to the unspeakable joys You have prepared for those who love You; through Jesus Christ, 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.**



✠ *Blessed Are The Disciples* ✠

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

Very often in life, it is helpful to learn things in a particular order. For instance, a student of Mathematics should learn how to add before she learns to multiply. Likewise, teachers may find it helpful if their students have an overview of Western Civilization, before they begin to study American History. Because of this, when I was in school, there were certain classes called, “prerequisites” that one had to have had completed before one could take another class.

Well, in our Gospel Lesson this morning from Matthew, we come across the beginning of what is know as the Sermon on the Mount. In the Sermon on the Mount, we hear some of the most well known teachings of Jesus. Teachings like His disciples being the Salt and the Light of the World, the Lord’s Prayer, and what is often referred to as the *Golden Rule*. When Jesus is finished with this sermon, we are told in Matthew 7 that the crowds were *astonished* because Jesus taught with authority. Therefore it’s no wonder that those three chapters in Matthew, that make up this sermon of Jesus, have always been some of the most popular passages of the Bible, because it lays out for the church what it must and must not do.

But just like learning math or history, there's some prerequisite learning that must take place before Jesus can get into all of these great teachings of what it means to be His disciple or follower. And these prerequisites are our Gospel Lesson today, what is often called the *Beatitudes*.

Matthew 5:1-2 tells us, "*Seeing the crowds, He [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when He sat down, His disciples came to Him. And He opened His mouth and taught them...*" And before He told them that that everyone who looks at another person with lustful intent has committed adultery, Jesus tells them that the poor in spirit are blessed. Before He teaches His disciples that they are to love not only their neighbors, but also their enemies, Jesus teaches them that the merciful will receive mercy. Before He tells His followers to turn the other cheek, Jesus tells them that the meek are blessed because they will inherit the earth.

Jesus seems to do this because while the Sermon of the Mount describes what the disciples of Jesus are supposed to do or how they are to act, these *Beatitudes* or blessings that we read today actually make disciples. Or if someone already is a follower of Jesus, they strengthen their faith! Just look at the text for a moment. As you read through the text again, notice the pronouns. In verses 3-10, it's all "theirs" is the kingdom of Heaven, "they" will be comforted, "they" shall see God...until v.11. Then Jesus switches from the 3<sup>rd</sup> person, to the 2<sup>nd</sup>. In verse 11 He doesn't say "they" shall be blessed when they are reviled – He says "you". You see, there is a move from them being blessed to you being blessed in the Beatitudes because if you believe them, you've become a disciple of Christ, have His blessings, and are now ready to hear the rest of the Sermon on the Mount. The Beatitudes, making and strengthening disciples, are the prerequisites for the rest of Jesus' teaching.

This weekend, as the Church around the World celebrates All Saints Sunday, we need to hear these beatitudes once again – not necessarily to make disciples, but rather to strengthen our faith and trust in God. To remember that He doesn't always work according to our ways or wisdom. And that sometimes in the Kingdom of God, things aren't quite what they seem.

We need this strength because as we remember our loved ones who have died in the faith, we come face to face with death - the ultimate consequence of sin. And for many, and if we're not careful, when we remember those who had died, we may be fooled into thinking that death has won, and that death always wins; always has the last word because everyone always dies! This is of course because everyone always sins.

But in the Kingdom of God, where God rules and reigns, things are not always what they seem. Born of the virgin Mary, there was one who did not sin. As the Son of God, He nevertheless suffered and died. Having died, He rose again, so that not only could those whom we remember have forgiveness and eternal life, but all of us, and everyone who has faith in Jesus as their Lord and Savior from sin and death. Because true saints are not made by their own works or deeds, but by the work of Jesus' death and resurrection.

If we believe this and this is what we confess, then we believe what Jesus teaches us in our Gospel Lesson today. Those who mourn will be comforted. The pure in heart will see God. Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will be satisfied. If you didn't believe it before and do now, you have been made a disciple of our Lord Jesus. If you've already believed in Jesus, take heart and be encouraged by His teachings in the Beatitudes, especially if you mourn the deaths of loved ones or struggle in the here and now of this life. For in God's Kingdom, where Jesus lives and reigns, things are not always what they seem. God became a man. That man never sinned and yet died. Though dead, He rose again to give us life and to make sinners saints. He rose so that we, and all of those who have died in the faith, may truly be blessed. Amen.