



## Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

### **November 21, 2021 A.D. – The Last Sunday of the Church Year**

*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.**

#### **Introit**

*(From II Peter 3 & Psalm 39)*

We are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth,  
**the home of righteousness.**

O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days;

**let me know how fleeting I am!**

Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths,

**and my lifetime is as nothing before you.**

And now, O Lord, for what do I wait?

**My hope is in you.**

Deliver me from all my transgressions.

**Do not make me the scorn of the fool!**

Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry;

**hold not your peace at my tears!**

*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 13:24-37)*

**Sermon** – ✠ *What Kind of Day?* ✠ *(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**

- Thanksgiving Holiday

#### **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**

- Roxanne Ross (former office assistant) - hospitalization
- Ryan Urban - recovering after surgery
- Marcia (mother of M Rinderknecht & E Heller) - health issues
- Pastor Dana (brother of Melissa Loney) - hospitalization
- John (brother of Pat Krekeler) - hospitalization
- Mary Jane Hedtke - health issues
- Lee Rathje - broken wrist, recovering after fall
- Sharon Ramsey - recovering after surgery
- Faye Sieck - recovering after hospitalization
- Dale Stonewall - recovering at home after surgery

### **Shut-Ins**

- Valerie Koelper - Grand Living on Indian Creek

### **Mourning**

- Bob (relative of Luci Stoelting & Melinda Crow) - died 11/13
- Steve (friend of Pete Larson) - died 11/6
- Roland (brother of Bonnie Breiholz) - died 10/30
- Dorothy (aunt of Karen Pfeffer) - died 10/29

### **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, so govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your glorious return, we may persevere in both faith and holiness of living; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **Concluding Prayers**

Almighty and everlasting God, You would have all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. By Your almighty power and unsearchable wisdom break and hinder all the counsels of those who hate Your Word and who, by corrupt teaching, would destroy it. Enlighten them with the knowledge of Your glory that they may know the riches of Your heavenly grace and, in peace and righteousness, serve You, the one true God; 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.**



## ✠ *What Kind of Day?* ✠

A reading from Isaiah 13:9-13:

*Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger,  
to make the land a desolation and to destroy its sinners from it.*

*For the stars of the heavens and their constellations will not give their light;  
the sun will be dark at its rising, and the moon will not shed its light.*

*I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will put an end to the pomp  
of the arrogant, and lay low the pompous pride of the ruthless.*

*<sup>1</sup>I will make people more rare than fine gold, and mankind than the gold of Ophir.*

*Therefore I will make the heavens tremble, and the earth will be shaken out of its place,  
at the wrath of the LORD of hosts in the day of his fierce anger.*

The Day of the Lord is something that many of us are unfamiliar with and I think one of the reasons is that we really don't like to talk about it. Not many of us like cruel days, filled with wrath and anger, especially when it's God's wrath and anger. With God's anger we're not talking about child's temper tantrum, we're talking about making the land desolate. We're not talking about shaking a fist or an empty threat, we're talking about the earth and the heavens shaking and trembling. We don't like to talk about such things, because such things can at least make us uncomfortable – maybe even scare us.

We like to think of God as a kind, gentle old man, with a long white beard, who helps us when we need Him and sort of chuckles at all of the mistakes we make in life: All the times when we do things that He tells us we shouldn't; All the times when we break His Law; All the time when we do evil. But Isaiah shows us that God does not laugh at this. Rather God destroys and punishes. "*I will punish the world for its evil,*" God says, "*the wicked for their sins*" (Isaiah 13:11a). Now don't sit there and think, "Boy is that one guy I know in trouble!" Because you are a sinner, and you are the evil and the wicked. You were born with sin, and yes I do know that all of you do many wonderful things, and that you try to do your best to lead good and holy lives but as St. Paul says, "*All have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God*" (Romans 3:23). You know what these sins are. I don't have to go through all of God's Law to show you broke it. Just ask yourself, "Have I loved God with all my heart"? And, "Have I loved everyone else as I love myself"? If you answer "No" read Isaiah, and look at the wrath, the anger, and the punishment of God on the Day of the Lord.

A reading from Mark 13:24-27:

*But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light,<sup>25</sup> and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.<sup>26</sup> And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.<sup>27</sup> And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.*

You don't have to be a biblical scholar to see that when you hold up that reading from Isaiah next to what Jesus is saying Mark there are some things that are very similar and some things that are completely different. The descriptions of the sun, the stars, the moon are almost identical and show that both texts are talking about the Day of the Lord. But instead of God's wrath and anger coming, Jesus says that He, the Son of Man will come. The Day of the Lord is when Christ will return again – His Second Coming, we often say. Both Isaiah and Jesus knew

that the Day of the Lord will be unlike any other. It will be a time when God intervenes in history to judge people, as Isaiah says, or to bless them, as Jesus says in Mark. Did you notice that Jesus doesn't talk about the wrath and anger of the Day of the Lord like we see in Isaiah, rather Jesus says that God will send the angels to gather His people up. God will bring them into His love and protection.

The difference between Isaiah's account and Jesus' is not that one is wrong or that there will be two different Days of the Lord; rather it's that these descriptions of that day are for two different groups of people. Isaiah mentions wrath and punishment for an ungodly, unrepentant nation of Israel who does not fear the Lord. Jesus is talking to His disciples, those who love and trust in Jesus as their savior. The disciples knew that they were sinners, that they were evil and wicked. They knew that the Day of the Lord was going to be big trouble for them. But then Jesus showed up and began to teach them. And through the Holy Spirit using the Scriptures and the Sacraments, the disciple came to faith. Not always perfectly of course, but they had faith. And eventually, they came to know that on the cross Jesus, despite being the sinless Son of God, took upon Himself all of the anger and wrath of God. He suffered nothing less than the anger that shakes the heavens and earth; the wrath that lays waste to the land, so that you wouldn't have to. Now we don't have to live in fear of an angry God, because not only are Jesus' disciples sinners, but we are also forgiven. God no longer will look upon our sins, rather He will look at Jesus on the cross. That's what Jesus' disciples believed yesterday, that's what they believe today, and that's what they believe until the Day of the Lord.

Today we continue to wait for that Day to come, as Jesus tells us that it is coming. Just like when you see the leaves on a fig tree and you know summer is coming, Jesus says the signs are out there that show us the Day of the Lord is coming. Earlier in Mark we read the signs are wars and rumors of wars, nations and kingdoms rising up against each other, earthquakes and famines, brothers, fathers, and children all betraying each other. These things have been taking place for as long as anyone can remember, and that should remind us, that while the Day of the Lord and Jesus' Second Coming will be a specific day in history, maybe today or a thousand years from now, we should be prepared everyday for that Day.

That day can come quickly and it can be a surprise, so we listen to Christ when He tells us watch out and be prepared. Today we need to pay special attention to these words of Christ that warn us against false saviors and those who would deceive us. When you hear your pastor encouraging you to study the Scriptures and receive the Sacraments you can think that they are doing this "because that's what pastors do" and that they are trying to "control" you. Or you can hear Jesus' own Words in their admonishment and believe that they care about you not wanting to see you be led astray by the wisdom of this world.

Therefore as the Day of the Lord or the last day of our lives comes near, we as Christians are called to be ready, trusting in Christ alone for our salvation. And doing so, we do not dread that day, but we may look forward to it as the day when we no longer need to worry about sin or evil or anyone's anger or wrath, or any of the things that troubles us today. For when Christ returns or we meet Him in heaven, because we have been forgiven we will live with God forever in a world without sin and evil, or anger and wrath. Amen.

