



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

November 28, 2021 A.D. – The First Sunday in Advent

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

Psalm 25:1-10

¹ To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

² **O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.**

³ Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;

they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴ Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.

⁵ **Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;**
for you I wait all the day long.

⁶ **Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love,**
for they have been from of old.

⁷ **Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;**
according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

⁸ **Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

⁹ He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

¹⁰ **All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.**

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

Luke 19:28-40

²⁸When [Jesus] had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰saying, "Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?'

you shall say this: ‘The Lord has need of it.’”³² So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them.³³ And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, “Why are you untying the colt?”³⁴ And they said, “The Lord has need of it.”³⁵ And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it.³⁶ And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road.³⁷ As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen,³⁸ saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”³⁹ And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.”⁴⁰ He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”

Sermon – † *Hope Has Come* † (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

- Noah (son of Josh & Haley Dohrmann) - baptized 11/27

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

- Jan (friend of Bonnie Bubke) - recovering after surgery
- 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

- Melba Davison - Terrace Glen, Marion

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

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... Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Concluding Prayers

Almighty and most merciful God, in this earthly life we endure sufferings and death before we enter into eternal glory. Grant us grace at all times to subject ourselves to Your holy will and to continue steadfast in the true faith to the end of our lives that we may know the peace and joy of the blessed hope of the resurrection of the dead and of the glory of the world to come; 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.



✝ *Hope Has Come* ✝

Grace, Mercy, and Peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

I can't remember exactly where it was, but I believe I was out shopping and I know that it was just before Halloween when I first heard a Christmas song this year. And while I can't remember where exactly I was, I do remember being surprised that someone was playing Christmas music before we even handed out candy to all the ghosts and goblins in our neighborhoods.

Now I'm probably like you and would like to think that all of these stores and people are getting into the Christmas spirit because they are so anxious to celebrate our Savior's birth! But that would probably be a little naïve, wouldn't it? The fact of the matter is, that many people are looking forward to Christmas coming this year, but it really has nothing to do with celebrating the Incarnation. Rather, under the best of circumstances it has to do with spending time with family and friends. And at its worse, it's because that Christmas has become big business, with many stores and companies eager to take advantage of our holiday cheer and turn a big profit.

Of course there is nothing wrong with businesses and companies offering products to help get us ready for the holidays, decorating their stores and playing Christmas carols over the sound system, even if the goal is to make money. But in the midst of all the lights, tinsel, and clever marketing schemes there is a danger of forgetting that the real purpose of Christmas is that our Savior, the Messiah, Jesus Christ has come. And forgetting this essential fact not only robs us of the truth behind this season, but also of the hope we have because of Christ. Hope that what we see around us, is not all there is to life. Hope that evil does not rule in this world or the next.

But it is so easy to lose sight of that Hope. Think about all of the things that you have to do before Christmas arrives this year. Think of all the traditions that we have celebrating this holy day. Whether we are driving ourselves crazy running around looking for that special gift, worried about hosting or attending the perfect party, or singing “Grandma God Run Over by a Reindeer” the coming of Christ gradually begins to slip away. And we here at the church are not immune to it either. It’s far too easy for Christmas to become about the decorations and the events, instead of the One to whom all of these things are supposed to be about.

This is, of course, nothing new. We see in our Gospel reading for today that when Jesus came riding into Jerusalem on a colt there were some disciples who joyfully praised God with loud voices. But it was not because Jesus was going to the cross where He would save the world from its’ sin. It wasn’t because their hope was being realized by the coming of the Christ. It was because they had seen miracles - People healed and fed, demons and storms driven away is what got the people excited.

Even those who should have known better lost their focus. The religious leaders, who had studied the prophets, who knew of God’s promise to send a savior, who knew of the world’s need for a savior, were offended when they saw the Christ coming. They wanted Jesus to rebuke those who were praising Him as a king. It is likely that the Pharisees were quite happy with their situation in life, and they were worried that any talk of a king might cause Herod and Caesar to stir things up a bit. And so they thought, “Never mind the hope of Christ coming, let’s just hope things stay the same”.

We read in Luke 19:39-40, “*And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him [Jesus], ‘Teacher, rebuke your disciples.’ He answered, ‘I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.’*” We’re not sure if Jesus meant the large stones of the Temple that we read about the other week; the large stones that were knocked over during the destruction of the city by the Romans in 70 A.D. Or if Jesus was talking about stones in general – that all of creation will sing the praises of the One who rules over the heavens and the earth. Regardless of what stones Jesus is referring to the point is clear. Nothing can keep the Hope of Christmas from coming and being proclaimed.

It didn’t matter that crowds were praising Jesus only because they saw Him perform miracles. He was on the way to the cross where He would die as our Savior, bringing in a new era – a new testament, that as He rose from the grave, we might rise again as well. It didn’t matter that the Pharisees were all tied up with their social status and traditions of men. If people don’t praise Christ, the stones will. It doesn’t matter if the stores we shop at don’t get it, it doesn’t who we are with or where we are. Christ has come and will come again.

And He has come and will come again because He knows that we are not perfect. He knows that as we celebrate Christmas we sometimes want others around us to be happy so much that we forget about Him. He knows that it is hard to sing praises to God with the angels in the sky when not only the world, but also our lives, can be filled with trouble. It doesn’t make our actions right, but He knows about them. And that is why He came. And because He came, that is why we have hope. A sure and certain hope that we will not have to endure the punishment for our mistakes and our sins, because He already has. Hope that our Savior does indeed come to us today through the Word and the Sacraments. Hope that we will dwell with Him in the new creation that He’ll bring when He comes again.

And so let the stores put up their Christmas displays and play their music. Shop till you drop if you would like. Because Christmas is coming no matter how or why we celebrate, just as Christ went about His work no matter who or what stood in His way. As St. Paul says in Romans

8:38-39, “*For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*” So, as you sing the carols this year and look for that present, don’t forget the cause of our Advent and Christmas celebrations. But if you see others or even if you yourself do forget, take heart – there is always hope. The Christ has come. Jesus the Son of God has died for us and risen again. And therefore we are forgiven and may look forward to His coming again. Amen.

And now may the peace of God that surpasses all understanding keep your hearts and minds forever in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

