



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

January 2nd, 2022 A.D. The Second Sunday after Christmas

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.

Introit

(From Psalm 147 and John 1)

¶ The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,

☐ **glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God;

for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;

his understanding is beyond measure.

But the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,

in those who hope in his steadfast love.

Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!

Praise your God, O Zion!

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

Scripture Lesson

Luke 2:40-52

⁴⁰The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

⁴¹Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at

his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.” ⁴⁹And he said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” ⁵⁰And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

Sermon ✠ *Back to Business* ✠ *(A copy is included at the end of this service.)*

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

- The New Year
- Ryan Urban - recovering after surgery

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 the world

Healing

- Sharon Ramsey - recovering after surgery
- Ron Prescott - back pain
- Dave Christian - recovering at home after cardiac surgery
- Carol Grimminger - recovering at home after fall
- Marlys Jaspersen - recovering after surgery
- Cindy Broadwater - recovering after surgery
- Tracy Donels - recovering after surgery
- Emily Kroemer - back pain
- Lee Rathje - broken wrist, recovering after fall

Shut-Ins

- Del Block - The Gardens

Mourning

- Don (brother of Joann Strang) - died 12/21
- Roger (uncle of Kris Dunn) - died 12/17
- Randy (friend of John Hamm) - died 12/12
- Fred Schuchmann - died 12/11
- Pastor Dana (brother of Melissa Loney) - died 11/25

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

Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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.



✠ **Back to Business** ✠

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

Today many of us eyeing the end of the holiday season. Most of the presents have been given and unwrapped by now. Parties and get-togethers are all over. And if we haven't done so already, we will all soon return to our normal, every day schedules. There's so much build up to the time of Christmas and the New Year, but now in many ways, it seems as if it is time to get back to do what we always do. Back to reality, back to what we might call our every day lives. However, the fact that we have a Christmas day to celebrate, the fact that God became man for our sake, means that our every day lives now are anything but ordinary.

In our Gospel lesson we see that St. Luke did not spend to much time dwelling on the splendor and beauty of that first Christmas which he beautifully describes. Of course, there were the angels and the shepherds, no room at the inn, the manger and all that. But after St. Luke tells us that child in the manger is Immanuel, or God with us, he gets right down to business in telling us how Jesus would accomplish the very task He came to earth for.

No longer an infant in the manger, Luke tells us that Jesus *grew and became strong, filled with wisdom*. Of course, we don't normally think of the eternal God, even if He was born of a

virgin at this point, as having to grow at all, let alone in strength and wisdom. But here we are reminded that Jesus really did take upon Himself our human nature. Having humbled Himself, He was in every way like you and I, becoming our brother in the flesh. He did this, not so that we might have a holy day to celebrate in the middle of winter, but rather so that we might celebrate being saved from our sin. The whole point of Christmas, the whole point of Jesus becoming a man, was so that He could keep God's Law and yet die on the cross as punishment for breaking it. If this sounds crazy, you're not alone. St. Paul calls this the *foolishness of the cross*. But Jesus came to do this so that He could receive the punishment for sin that we deserved, and those who believe in Him could receive the life, the salvation, and the glory that He earned.

But between Christmas and Good Friday and Easter, between Jesus birth in Bethlehem and His death and resurrection, there was work to be done. And Jesus did not waste much time in getting started. At just the age of 12 when Mary and Joseph brought Him to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of the Passover, He left His parents and ended up in the temple where He learned from, as well as taught, the great religious leaders of the day. Other than being amazed that such a young man could teach such learned scholars, we see here the very real sense of urgency for Jesus to get down to the business for which He came.

Having just finished our celebration of Christmas, there is the same sense of urgency in the Christian Church today. Every day there are people who are dying as prisoners in their own sin. They are being bound with chains from the devil, because they do not know the Savior who has set them free. Jesus knew this, and as soon as He was 12, the age of maturity back then, He went to work setting the record straight. Luke doesn't tell us what He and the teachers in the temple were discussing, but it's safe to say that Jesus was redirecting their focus from saving themselves by their own good works to salvation by God's grace and mercy that comes through the One before them.

The urgent business of the Church today is the same business of its' leader, Jesus. The church is to free people from their sin and death. The only way this is done is by having faith in Christ Jesus as our Savior. Faith that comes by hearing the Good News of Jesus. And so while the Church (the community of believers in Jesus) does many things including helping the poor and providing fellowship for Christians, its' primary purpose is to save people from their sin by proclaiming the Gospel through God's Word and Sacrament. As members of the Christian Church, as Jesus' followers today, we take up His sense of urgency and continue this work. We are called to love and help one another in all their needs, but we must never loose our primary purpose of proclaiming the Gospel. If we do, then the Church becomes just another charitable organization and there is no reason for us to be here today.

So every day, God in essence, sends every one of us out on business trip. Some of us He will send to family members. Others to friends, classmates, or co-workers. And many of these people that we encounter are held captive by devil. Blinded by sin, they believe that they are descent people who will be saved because their good works will outweigh their bad on Judgment Day. There are those who openly live contrary to God's will and have no concern about the consequences or trying to stop. And even those do try or are worried, far too often that they just have to try harder to be "good". And this is where God sends us in.

Jesus spent His entire ministry showing people their sin and having them turn to God to be saved. Not many of here can teach as Jesus did, let alone perform His miracles. But everyone of us can show the power of God when we live and behave as ones who know Jesus is their Savior. Helping other people and putting their own needs before our own; being honest even when we make mistakes or its' not the popular thing to do; but these things are small miracles in and of

themselves that can point people to Christ. You all know what I'm talking about. When we see someone out in the world today living as a Christian, we take notice, and so does the world. You don't have to scream bible verses at people or argue with them. What God wants us to do is live and act like we belong to Him, wherever we are and whatever situation we are in.

And should God give you the opportunity to explain to someone why you act the way you do, I pray that you are able to say it is because you are saved by Christ and not because you are a sinner. Because the world knows all about sin, but far too many in the world, even right here in eastern Iowa need to clearly hear the Gospel of Christ from the church, and each one of you is the church to those you meet in the world today.

So as the season of Christmas wraps up again for another year, and many of us get back to the "normal" business of our lives, let's not forget that in our everyday business, we are called to do God's business. Called to rescue people from certain death by sharing the Gospel of Christ by His Word and our deeds in whatever situation God places us. Let us always pray that He would give us the strength to do this work and that it might bear fruit to His glory alone. Amen.

