



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

January 30th 2022 A.D. – 4th Sunday after Epiphany

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

(From Psalm 10)

P Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up your hand;

C forget not the afflicted.

The LORD is king forever and ever;

the nations perish from his land.

O LORD, you hear the desire of the afflicted;

you will strengthen their heart;

you will incline your ear to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed,

so that man who is of the earth may strike terror no more.

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 4:31-44)

³¹[Jesus] went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the Sabbath, ³²and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority. ³³And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, ³⁴“Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.” ³⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent and come out of him!” And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm. ³⁶And they were all amazed and said to one another, “What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!” ³⁷And reports about him went out into every place in the surrounding region.

³⁸And he arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf. ³⁹And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them.

⁴⁰Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. ⁴¹And demons also came out of many, crying, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.

⁴²And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, ⁴³but he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose." ⁴⁴And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Sermon – † *Authority of the Word* † (*A copy is included at the end of this service.*)

Athanasian Creed

Whoever desires to be saved must, above all, hold the catholic faith.

Whoever does not keep it whole and undefiled will without doubt perish eternally.

And the catholic faith is this,

that we worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the substance.

For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Holy Spirit is another.

But the Godhead of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is one: the glory equal, the majesty coeternal.

Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit:

the Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, the Holy Spirit uncreated;

the Father infinite, the Son infinite, the Holy Spirit infinite;

the Father eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal.

And yet there are not three Eternals, but one Eternal,

just as there are not three Uncreated or three Infinites, but one Uncreated and one Infinite.

In the same way, the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, the Holy Spirit almighty;

and yet there are not three Almighty's, but one Almighty.

So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God;

and yet there are not three Gods, but one God.

So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord;

and yet there are not three Lords, but one Lord.

Just as we are compelled by the Christian truth to acknowledge each distinct person as God and Lord, so also are we prohibited by the catholic religion to say that there are three Gods or Lords.

The Father is not made nor created nor begotten by anyone.

The Son is neither made nor created, but begotten of the Father alone.

The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son, neither made nor created nor begotten, but proceeding.

Thus, there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits.

And in this Trinity none is before or after another; none is greater or less than another; but the whole three persons are coeternal with each other and coequal, so that in all things, as has been stated above, the Trinity in Unity and Unity in Trinity is to be worshiped.

Therefore, whoever desires to be saved must think thus about the Trinity.

But it is also necessary for everlasting salvation that one faithfully believe the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, it is the right faith that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is at the same time both God and man.

He is God, begotten from the substance of the Father before all ages; and He is man, born from the substance of His mother in this age:

perfect God and perfect man, composed of a rational soul and human flesh; equal to the Father with respect to His divinity, less than the Father with respect to His humanity.

Although He is God and man, He is not two, but one Christ:

one, however, not by the conversion of the divinity into flesh, but by the assumption of the humanity into God;

one altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person.

For as the rational soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ, **who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead,** ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

At His coming all people will rise again with their bodies and give an account concerning their own deeds.

And those who have done good will enter into eternal life, and those who have done evil into eternal fire.

This is the catholic faith; whoever does not believe it faithfully and firmly cannot be saved.

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

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
- Project 24 students, Yvonne and Lorine

Healing

- Joel Knutson - upcoming surgery 2/3
- Elaine Cook - recovering after surgery
- Janet (mother of Jennifer Shoemaker) - chemo treatments
- Melvin (uncle of Deb Heitland) - hospitalization
- Tom Mark (friend of congregation) - hospitalization
- Karen Kroemer (friend of Laura Holt) - cancer
- Don Hein - recovering after surgery
- Bob (husband of Carolyn Sternowski) - recovering after COVID
- 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

- Melba Davison - Terrace Glen, Marion

Mourning

- Austin (grandson of Fran Struck) - died 1/21
- Richard (relative of Carol Grimminger) - died 1/12

Serving Our Country

- Ben - serving in the Iowa National Guard
- Mitchell & Benjamin (relatives of Schoens & Smiths) - U.S. Navy
- Harrison (son of Rob & Faye Sieck) - U.S. Armed Forces

Collect of the Day

Let us pray.... Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; 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

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.



✠ *Authority of the Word* ✠

Grace, Mercy, and Peace to you from God - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

In Luke's Gospel demons are mentioned 23 times – a significant number. But the mention of these evil spirits is not intended to shock or scare us. Rather Luke talks about these things to show Jesus has the authority to free creation from whatever evil it is that enslaves us.

This really shouldn't be a surprise. For just last week in our Gospel lesson Jesus described to the people of Nazareth what His ministry would look like. Reading from Isaiah He said, "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*" And as we see in our reading today, this is exactly what Jesus does. Not only does He teach the people the Word of God, but in dealing with unclean demon in v.35 we read, "*But Jesus rebuked him, saying 'Be silent and come out of him'*"! We also read in v.39 that Jesus stood over Simon's mother-in-law and rebuked her fever. And finally today we heard that Jesus rebuked the demons that called Him the Son of God.

The word "rebuke" is used three times in our reading today and in doing so, it shows us that Jesus makes no distinction between body and soul. Demon possession, sickness, sin, and death are all manifestations of a fallen creation. And just as He said He would, Jesus frees those in bondage by rebuking that which binds them. He rebukes the demon, and it comes out after a violent struggle. He rebukes the fever of Peter's mother-in-law and it leaves her. He rebukes the demons who call Him the "Son of God" and those demons come out. And later on in Luke we'll even see how Jesus tells His disciples to "rebuke" those who sin. Anything that torments or holds us captive, Christ has come to defeat and destroy once and for all.

And this ministry is done through the authority of His Word. We are told in v.32 that the people in Capernaum were blown away at His teaching for His Word possessed authority. Likewise in v.36 we read, *“And they were all amazed and said to one another, “What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!”*

We must not miss this point: as Jesus went to wage war against the forces of evil that bind humanity, He staked everything on the authority of God’s Word. He defeated Satan and his temptations in the desert by quoting God’s Word, and in His ministry at large it became His mainstay. Isaiah 61 was the basis of His first sermon. The Sermon on the Mount was an exposition of the Law. Even after His resurrection, *“Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself”* (24: 27). Teaching the Word of God was central to Jesus’ ministry and where it’s authority began!

The Church must do the same today. If the Church is to have any authority in the world, if it is to be relevant to people’s lives, it must teach on the authority of God’s holy Word. Paul’s command to Timothy comes to all of us: *“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth”* (2 Timothy 2: 15). A few paragraphs later Paul told Timothy what he was to do as a result of his hard study: *“Preach the word”* (2 Timothy 4: 2). Today, when our culture doesn’t seem to be interested in reason or in facts, but only feelings that will advance their agenda, the church must continue to stand on the truth of God’s Word. For it is through the Word that God gives us all of the blessings of the Gospel.

And here we must remember that God’s Word does so much more than just bring about miracles of exorcism and healing – especially when our prayers for such miracles have seemed to go unanswered. Because the miracles that have come about through God’s Word have always pointed to the greater reality of the Gospel. This Gospel is the Good News, that the Son of God to whom belonged all power and authority, would not use His authority to glorify Himself, or even to always heal people here in this life, but would use all of His power and authority to save you from your sin and eternal death. In doing so, He may or may not heal us of cancer or heart disease, but He already has healed us of our sin, which is far more deadly. Hanging on the cross, Jesus liberated us not from demons, but from all the power and works of the Devil. And leaving the tomb on Easter morning, Jesus didn’t just give us a physical health that is here today and gone tomorrow, or a momentary break from temptation and struggle. But by rising to life on that glorious and famous third day, Jesus gave us eternal life.

So don’t be discouraged if Jesus, the One who has this great authority over all of creation does not heal you of sickness or save you from the temptations of the evil one. If He does, rejoice that God has shown such mercy, and understand it as a sign pointing to who He really is. But remember that the miracles of Jesus serve as a sign to point us to the greater gift – the Good News of the Kingdom of God. So, while we struggle in this life, while we wrestle with our sin, our temptations, we may rejoice in the love that God has given to us through Christ. The love that sets us free from all that troubles us and comes to us through the Word of the One who has all authority in Heaven and on Earth.

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

