



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

February 27th, 2022 A.D. – The Transfiguration

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 84)

Blessèd are those who dwell in your house,
ever singing your praise!

How lovely is your dwelling place,

O LORD of hosts!

My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.

Behold our shield, O God;

look on the face of your anointed!

For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor.

No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.

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 9:28-36)

²⁸Now about eight days after these sayings [Jesus] took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. ³⁰And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, ³¹who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³²Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said. ³⁴As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as

they entered the cloud. ³⁵And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!” ³⁶And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

Sermon – † *Transfiguring Love* † (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

- Sheila Willms & GoServ - served on mission in Guatemala

Entrusting into God’s Care

- The Kroemer family as they help a friend
- Persecuted Christians and refugees
- Those suffering after the storm and during the pandemic
- Peace in Europe and throughout the world
- Workers in the Church, at Bethany and the world
- Project 24 students, Yvonne and Lorine

Healing

- Linda (mother of Ryan Corey) - health issues
- Doug Knutson - medical tests
- Vanny (friend of Cindy Goerd) - health issues
- Carol Grimminger - healing
- Wayne Schilling - hospice
- Emily Kroemer - recovering after surgery
- Joel Knutson - recovering after surgery
- Donna Birkicht - recovering after surgery
- Don Hein - recovering after surgery
- Elaine Cook - recovering after surgery
- Sharon Ramsey - recovering after surgery
- Ron Prescott - back pain
- Dave Christian - recovering at home after cardiac surgery
- Marlys Jaspersen - recovering after surgery
- Cindy Broadwater - recovering after surgery
- Lee Rathje - broken wrist, recovering after fall

Shut-Ins

- Del Block - the Gardens

Mourning

- Rosalie (mother of Ronda Anderson) - died 2/17
- Harlan (brother of Joann Strang) - died 2/10
- Scott (brother-in-law of Eliases) - died 2/6
- Melvin (uncle of Deb Heitland) - died 2/6

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... O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King in His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; through the same 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.



✠ *Transfiguring Love* ✠

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

While there are certain celebrations that fall on the same day every year, the date of Transfiguration Sunday moves around, as it is always the Sunday right before Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday begins the somber season of Lent, when Christians focus on the sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus. Yet to fully appreciate the humiliation Jesus endured and what benefit it is to any of us, it helps to know exactly who Jesus is.

Simply put, what happens at the Transfiguration of Jesus, that we read about in our Scripture reading, is that the disciples catch a glimpse of Jesus' true identity. For years He had been refusing to use all of the power that was His, appearing to be in many ways just like you and I. The Bible tells us that Jesus became hungry (Matt 4:2), that He became thirsty (John 19:28), and that as He traveled around Judea He became tired (John 4:6), just like we would have. But unlike you or I, Jesus was also God. We see some of His power in the miracles that He performs. After all, who can calm storms, give sight to the blind, and even raise the dead, except for God? But the Transfiguration is an even better, an even clearer testimony to Jesus' divinity. His clothes become whiter than humanly possible. There talking with Jesus is Elijah and Moses. Once again the disciples present are awe struck. Peter, not wanting this wonderful moment to pass, wants to set up three tents to stay in. But then a cloud envelops them and God the Father speaks, "*This is my Son; My Chosen One. Listen to Him*" (9:35). All of this happening on the mountain makes one thing absolutely clear to the disciples and to everyone who believes the Scriptures are God's Word - Jesus is the Son of God and indeed, God Himself.

We now keep the Transfiguration of Jesus in mind as we move into the season of Lent this Wednesday. As we zero in on the suffering and death of Christ, we are reminded that Jesus was not simply a wise teacher as we walked the countryside teaching the masses. He was not a criminal who was unfairly tried and sentenced to death on the cross. This was the Son of God. Light of

Light, very God of very God, begotten not made! And everything that He went through, from the manger to the grave, He went through because He loves each and every one of us.

Now I know there are times when we all feel that we are unloved or unlovable. When sickness and death and broken relationships come barging into our lives it certainly can feel that God doesn't love us. With all the suffering and disruption of the global pandemic for two years or when war breaks out once again in Europe, it can seem that God doesn't really love anyone these days! And there is of course the evil that we do or the good that we don't do ourselves. Confronted with our own sinful thoughts and ways, our gut tells us that if God knew what we are really like, that He certainly would not love us.

But when Peter wanted to stay up on the mountain during the Transfiguration of Jesus, God's Word tells us that Peter didn't know what he was talking about. Because Jesus was not there to stay in His glory. If Christ had stayed in His glory than our gut reaction to sin and evil would be right – we would be lost in our sin. But Jesus did not stay there in the glory of the Transfiguration because He had another mountain to climb, Mount Calvary where He would be crucified. Jesus willingly went to this mountain where He would suffer death and being forsaken by His Heavenly Father so you and I could be forgiven our sins. He died on the cross so that when the wind blows and the ground shakes and lives are destroyed, we can have hope in an eternal life that nothing can ruin or destroy. Encountering Jesus in this way, not only are we able to live our lives here in peace and comfort, but our whole lives become changed or Transfigured themselves.

With faith, that the Son of God died for our sins, there is nothing in our lives that stays the same. There are many today, as there always has been, that will say if we want God to love us, we must act or behave a certain way. But God tells us that He loves us because of what He has already done through Christ. We read in I John 4:10, "*In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*"

Our congregation, and each of us as disciples of Christ, are called to share this message of God's love with the world who feels unloved or unlovable. This is why it is fitting we have a cross on top of the steeple of our church here at Bethany. That cross, or any cross for that matter, is not there to threaten us with God's wrath if we break His Law. It is there to remind us of God's love for every person, even the worst of sinners or in the worst of times.

This love now frees us to live as God's holy people. No longer do we need live in fear or shame over what we may have done in the past. To be sure there are consequences for sin, but we also know that those sins have died with Jesus on the cross. Of course there are still viruses, cancers, and war, but Christians can and do endure all of these things and more, trusting that God is control and has a plan for them through it all. In fact, we have seen throughout history that in the worst of times, those who trust in Christ rise up not only to take care of themselves but also one another, sharing God's love with anyone who needs it.

None of us would expect a child to behave like an adult. In the same way, we cannot expect others or even ourselves to act like Christians, unless we know Christ as our Savior. Apart from Him, people live as an unloved child according to the ways the world and their own flesh. But the more we encounter Jesus, through prayer and His Word and Sacraments, the more mature our faith becomes. And no longer do we act as the world does or even as infants in God's family, but we are transformed into the people that God wants us to become. A people whose lives have been forever changed by living under the cross of Christ, a people who live securely in God's peace and love.

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