



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

March 6th, 2022 A.D.

The First Sunday in Lent

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.

Psalm

From Psalm 91

When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble;

☩ I will rescue him and honor him.

With long life I will satisfy him

and show him my salvation.

Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—

the Most High, who is my refuge—

no evil shall be allowed to befall you,

no plague come near your tent.

For he will command his angels concerning you

to guard you in all your ways.

On their hands they will bear you up,

lest you strike your foot against a stone.

You will tread on the lion and the adder;

the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

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 4:1-13)

¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness ²for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. ³The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." ⁴And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'" ⁵And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world

in a moment of time, ⁶and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸And Jesus answered him, “It is written,

“*You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.*”

⁹And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written,

“*He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,*’

¹¹and

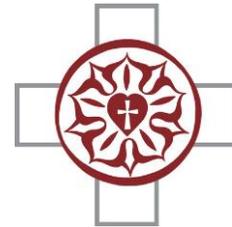
“*On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.*”

¹²And Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Sermon – † *Tempting Victory* † (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

Entrusting into God's Care

- The Kroemer family as they help a friend
- Brenda & Lee Heims - selling home
- Persecuted Christians and refugees
- Those suffering after the storm and during the pandemic
- Peace in Europe and throughout the world
 - Vitaly & Galena (in-laws of J. Pfluger) - in Ukraine
- 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

- Larry & Sharon Easler - Summit Pointe

Mourning

- Larry (brother of Ed Schumacher)
- Maridith (former Bethany member) - died 2/23
- Rosalie (mother of Ronda Anderson) - died 2/17

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

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; 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

O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to Your servants and all people, that peace which the world cannot give, that all hearts may be set to obey your commandments and also that we, and the people of the world, being defended from the fear of all enemies, may live in peace and quietness; 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.



✠ *Tempting Victory* ✠

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

As the Devil watched Jesus in the desert fasting, he must have been pleased, for this was familiar territory for him. He would have remembered how easily the people of Israel were tempted away from God as they wandered through the desert after the exodus. Verse 2 of our text tells us that Jesus, like the Israelites in the desert, was hungry, so why not have Him make some bread to feed Himself, the very thing the Israelites wanted long ago.

Of course, not many of us will ever be tempted to turn stones into bread, the impossible doesn't really tempt us. Yet this temptation should feel eerily familiar. When the price of goods and services seem to go higher and higher everyday, and when supply chain disruptions often make it difficult to acquire even the most basic of items, we are ripe targets for the temptation of not trusting God to provide all that we need. We may question God, as the Israelites did. Or when we ask for what we think we need, and when He gives us our "manna" - what we actually need, we complain that it's not good enough, or that we want more. And we'll do whatever it takes to get what we want, even if it means going against God.

And so, the first temptation is for Jesus take matters into His own hands. Will he break the fast that His Father has given Him? Will He be like the Israelites and turn away from where God is leading him? Will he be like us, and scheme and plot to provide for Himself? In this pivotal moment Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 8:3, "*Man does not live on bread alone.*" Now the rest of that verse reads, "*but man lives by every Word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.*" Bread sustains physical life, but God's Word gives eternal life. Thus, Jesus not only overcomes the devil's temptation with Scripture, the Sword of the Spirit, but He knows that true life and satisfaction is living with God's Word.

Having failed the first time, the devil moves on to another favorite temptation. "*Worship me, and all that you see will be yours.*" Luther writes in his Large Catechism, that even those who don't believe in a god, have gods, because a god is whatever you put your trust in. The devil here tells Jesus, "put your trust in me and I'll give you all that you can see."

Perhaps you have been tempted to be lured away from God and His ways with the promise or expectations of more money, more power, or more friends. If so, then how you have reacted has answered the questions, "What god do you worship? In what god do you put your trust?" Christ quotes Deut 6:13, "*Worship the Lord Your God and serve Him only.*" Despite the promises and riches Satan says other "gods" may hold, he lies for they can't live up to them, because they are false gods. Only the Triune God is to be worshipped, for He alone loves us and provides for us in this life and the next, out of His grace and mercy.

Having been bested twice now by Scripture, the devil turns to Scripture himself. He takes Jesus to the highest point on the temple and tells Him to throw Himself down. The devil believes that the psalms say that since Jesus is the Son of God, God will not let Him be hurt. The Father will protect Him, the angels will rescue Him and everyone will see this and believe that Jesus is the Christ. But Christ again quotes from Deuteronomy and tells Satan not to test the Lord. For the way that Christ had to go while He was here did not include the Father's protection, but rather the Father's anger and wrath. Life for Jesus was not supposed to be easy, with angels always tending to His every need. That would be life in Heaven for Christ. But our Savior left Heaven and came down to this fallen world. And He went out into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan without the angels protecting Him. And He went before Pilate and Herod without the angels

protecting Him. And He was lifted up on that torture device known as the cross without the angels protecting Him.

According to the devil, there would be no martyrs, no one would have to suffer for their faith. Listen to his temptations and he'll tell you there is no cross for you to bear. He'll tell you that a loving, all powerful god would not let anything bad happen to those whom He loved or those who loved Him. After all, that would make sense. It would also make sense that God would not let churches close down, nor let Christians become sick or even tempted! It would make sense that God would not nations invade other nations, bombs and rockets fall on maternity wards and schools, and over a million people have to flee their country for their lives. But it would also make sense that God really wouldn't let his Son strike His foot on a stone, let alone be crucified. The devil in the third temptation tries to make us forget the way of the cross. He wants us to think that glory and honor come before suffering, so that when we do suffer in this sinful and corrupt world, we'll give up. We'll think our faith is a sham, a fake, that God doesn't exist, or even if He does He isn't loving or caring. And when these thoughts come creeping into our minds, we have placed our own ways before God's.

And so whatever temptation that the Devil throws at you - remember two things from our reading today. First, remember how even Jesus fended off the attacks of Satan. Three times, after three temptations, He quotes from the book of Deuteronomy. So, we too are invited to trust in God as our shield from temptation as He reveals Himself and His will through the Word. But in addition to remembering this, when we are tempted and when we fail, remember the victory that Christ has won over sin, death, and the devil. He did what Israel could not do. He resisted in ways that we never can. And He did this so that His suffering and death and resurrection would save you and I and all who fail at being tempted, but trust in Christ for salvation. Christ overcoming Satan does so much more than just set an example for us, our faith makes Christ's victory our own. It does not mean that we will never suffer in this life or die, but it does guarantee that we will get through this wilderness of suffering and death, so that we will dwell with God in peace, forever. Amen.

