



# Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 A.D.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Psalms 1 and 5*

For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
**but the way of the wicked will perish.**  
For you are not a God who delights in wickedness;  
**evil may not dwell with you.**  
The boastful shall not stand before your eyes;  
**you hate all evildoers.**  
You destroy those who speak lies;  
**the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.**  
But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house.  
**I will bow down toward your holy temple in the fear of you.**  
Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness because of my enemies;  
**make your way straight before me.**

*For those with access to the internet, you may now play today's worship video, located on Bethany's website ([www.bethanycr.org](http://www.bethanycr.org)) under the Worship Resources tab and then continue with the Nicene Creed. Everyone else may continue the service as printed....*

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## Scripture Lesson

*Luke 13:1-9*

<sup>1</sup>There were some present at that very time who told [Jesus] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

<sup>6</sup>And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I

have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?’<sup>8</sup> And he answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure.<sup>9</sup> Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

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

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### **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**

- Marlys Jaspersen - recovering after surgery
- Emily Kroemer - recovering after surgery
- Elaine Cook - recovering after surgery

### **Entrusting into God's Care**

- Wayne Schilling - hospice 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**

- Cindy Broadwater - relief of foot pain
- Lee Rathje - medical procedure 3/21
- Judy (relative of Brenda Heims) - health issues
- Lynn Madsen - broken wrist
- Doug Knutson - medical tests
- Vanny (friend of Cindy Goerd) - health issues
- Carol Grimminger - recovering after hospitalization
- Joel Knutson - recovering after surgery
- Donna Birkicht - recovering after surgery
- Don Hein - recovering after surgery
- Sharon Ramsey - recovering after surgery
- Ron Prescott - back pain
- Dave Christian - recovering at home after cardiac surgery

### **Shut-Ins**

- Valerie Koelper - Grand Living on Indian Creek, Marion

### **Mourning**

- Gene (husband of Karen Schmidt) - died 3/9
- Linda (mother of Ryan Corey) - died 3/2
- Maridith (former Bethany member) - died 2/23

### **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) - Deployed to Germany

### Collect of the Day

Let us pray... O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; 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.**



✠ *Repent* ✠

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

On March 6<sup>th</sup>, Tetiana Perebyinis was outside with her two children. Unfortunately, they were not on their way to church or out for a morning stroll. Rather, they were fleeing their apartment building that a few days earlier had been hit by a Russian missile. As this family made their way across a bridge just outside of Kyiv, (Tetiana's husband was in another part of the country taking care of his mother who had COVID), a Russian mortar strike began. As shells began to fall around them, Anatoly Berezhnyi, a local volunteer from a nearby church, ran to help Tetiana with her suitcase. But he was too late. A mortar shell landed 12 yards away, killing all four people. Were Tetiana, her children, and Anatoly worse sinners than millions of other Ukrainians who have fled safely to other countries? "No" says Jesus, but repent lest you perish as well.

Last Tuesday, members the University of the Southwest's golf teams were riding in a passenger van down a highway in Texas. A pick-up truck coming the other way loss control at the wrong moment and veered directly into the path of the golf teams' van. Police estimate that

both vehicles were traveling about 75 mph when they collided head on, killing 9 out of the 11 people in the two vehicles. Were these golfers and others worse sinners than any other golfer? Any other driver? Were they worse offenders than you who sit there today alive and perhaps even well? Jesus says, “No, I tell you, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish!”

In our text, Jesus makes no distinction between the tragedies caused by man, such as the massacre of the Galileans by Roman soldiers, or freak accidents like the collapsing of the tower in Siloam. The devastation and heart break brought about by these events are not God’s punishment upon individual sinners for specific sins. Rather they, like the catastrophes in our time, are a call to repentance. A call that, if we are honest with ourselves, forces us to realize that we ourselves are sinners who deserve to face the anger of the Almighty.

Of course, it is true that there are people whom we love and respect in this world; people to whom we look up to or love so much that we find it hard to believe that God would let anything bad happen to them at all. But we must silence the well-intended voice of our emotions for a moment and listen to the Lord as He speaks to us in His Word. There He tells us that *all have fallen short of the glory of God*. There He tells us that He looks down from heaven and sees that there is *no one who is righteous, not even one*. Remember, God is judging by His standards here, and not ours. The standards that say someone who hates is a murder. That its not OK to look or to touch. That not only should we not steal, but that we must protect not just what is ours, but even our neighbors. That we are to love not just our loved ones, but even those who invade other countries. That we are to love those with whom we disagree. Looking at the standards that God has set, examining others and ourselves with God’s Law, it is clear that we do not deserve to be loved by God, but punished by Him. The question then is not why do these terrible things happen, but why has God given us anything good?!?!

This is not an easy concept to grasp, let alone like, for most of us. Like someone deathly ill who won’t go to the doctor, our pride doesn’t want us to admit how sinful we really are. But if we can put that pride aside, keep our egos in check; if we can repent of our sin, we are carried by God’s Word from despair up to the heights of a sure and certain hope.

Calling us to repentance, Jesus tells us of the vinedresser and the fig tree. For years the owner of the vineyard patiently waited for this fig tree that he had planted to bear fruit. He knew that it was eating up valuable time from the vinedresser and fertilizer and nutrients from the other plants. Nevertheless, he patiently waited until he could wait no longer. After three years, it was time to cut the tree down. But the vinedresser pleads with the owner of the vineyard for one more year. “Let me work on it a little longer. Dig around out it, fertilize it a little more” he says. “...*if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.*” The vinedresser will work to save the tree, however the fig tree must respond by producing fruit.

Jesus tells this parable to His listeners so that will understand God’s mercy in light of the evil that they see everyday. Like the owner of the vineyard God is patient with us, not destroying or cutting us down at immediately, but giving us time to bear the fruit of repentance. Of course, God’s patience and mercy will not last forever, but even when it runs out, there is One who works for us, One who intercedes on our behalf to the Father – our Lord Jesus Christ. By Jesus’ work on and leading up to the cross, He has given all of us a chance to turn away from our sins and receive the free gift of forgiveness that He bought with His own innocent blood. On the cross where Jesus suffered and died, every one of our sins that convicts us of not living up to God’s standards; every sin that would justify us being cut down and thrown into the fire; every sin that causes untold suffering and death in this world was paid for so that you might be forgiven.

Arthur Just, a Lutheran professor, therefore says that tragedies that we face in life, be them global or individual, must be seen from the foot of the cross. From there, and only there, may a Christian see in Christ's own suffering for us, her comfort, her peace, her forgiveness and everlasting life. Do Christians have these wonderful gifts because they are better than others. No. But we have this because turning from our sins, we have turned to Jesus to save us. We repent and are forgiven. This forgiveness...we do not deserve, but comes from our patient and loving God who gave His own Son over to death, so that we, and all sinners, might live and bear an abundance of fruit in His Kingdom.

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

