



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

April 3rd, 2022 A.D.

The 5th 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 3

Salvation belongs to the LORD;
your blessing be on your people!
But you, O LORD, are a shield about me,
my glory, and the lifter of my head.
I cried aloud to the LORD,
and he answered me from his holy hill.
I lay down and slept;
I woke again, for the LORD sustained me.
I will not be afraid of many thousands of people
who have set themselves against me all around.

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 20:9-18)

⁹[Jesus] began to tell the people this parable: "A man planted a vineyard and let it out to tenants and went into another country for a long while. ¹⁰When the time came, he sent a servant to the tenants, so that they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. ¹¹And he sent another servant. But they also beat and treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. ¹²And he sent yet a third. This one also they wounded and cast out. ¹³Then the owner of the vineyard said, 'What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him.' ¹⁴But when the tenants saw him, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Let us kill him, so that the inheritance may be ours.' ¹⁵And they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? ¹⁶He

will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others.” When they heard this, they said, “Surely not!”¹⁷ But he looked directly at them and said, “What then is this that is written:

*‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone’?*

¹⁸Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

Sermon † *Christ Went First* † *(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

- Don Hein - recovered after surgery

Entrusting into God's Care

- Doris Baker - moving
- 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

- Nolan Russman - recovering after surgery
- Doug Knutson - cancer treatment
- John Siebenmann - health issues
- Lee Rathje - recovering after surgery
- Cindy Broadwater - relief of foot pain
- Lynn Madsen - broken wrist
- Carol Grimminger - recovering after hospitalization
- Joel Knutson - recovering after surgery
- Sharon Ramsey - recovering after surgery
- Dave Christian - recovering at home after cardiac surgery

Shut-Ins

- Betty Hein - at home

Mourning

- Gene (husband of Karen Schmidt) - died 3/9
- Linda (mother of Ryan Corey) - died 3/2

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... Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; 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

Heavenly Father, God of all concord, it is Your gracious will that Your children on earth live together in harmony and peace. Defeat the plans of all those who would stir up violence and strife, destroy the weapons of those who delight in war and bloodshed, and, according to Your will, end all conflicts in the world. Fill us with zeal for the work of Your Church and the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which alone can bring that peace which is beyond all understanding: through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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.



✠ *Christ Went First* ✠

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

Whenever my wife, Christine, and I go cross-country skiing and we get to a difficult downhill section of the trail, I often find myself telling her, “You can go first”. Now before you all think I’m a big yellow chicken, you have to know that she is a much better skier than I am. And I am sure that I am not the only one here who has looked at a somewhat difficult challenge and said to someone else, “You go first”. (Although maybe I am the only one who says it to his or her beloved family members.) But regardless, the reason people do this is if they see someone fail or get hurt at what they are about to do, they’ll think twice about doing it themselves or at least think about doing it in a different way.

Most people think like this, except apparently, the son in the parable we heard Jesus teach in our Scripture lesson today. His father owns a vineyard and goes away on a trip, leasing the vineyard out to some tenants. While he is away it comes time to collect some of the fruit of the vineyard. So, the father sends a servant and the tenants beat him up. The father sends another servant, and they beat him up and treat him shamefully. Then the father sends another servant,

and the tenants injure him badly. So the father decides to send his son, thinking the tenants will have to respect and listen to him.

Now at this point, I would have to think that the son would be a little like me looking at Christine if she were ever to crash at the bottom of a ski hill. He has to be thinking, “*If they beat up these other three guys, why on earth would I want to go to these tenants to get the harvest?!?*” But the son does go, and, no surprise, he’s not successful - the wicked tenants actually kill him.

Now as I have said many times, parables are stories that Jesus tells to show us how God or God’s kingdom works. In this parable owner of the vineyard is God and the vineyard itself represents God’s people. The tenants, are the religious leaders who are charged with tending to God’s vineyard, or His people. When it comes time for His vineyard to bear fruit, God sends His servants, the prophets. But as the Old Testament bears witness, Israel had a bad habit of rejecting God’s prophets, at times even killing them. So, what is the owner, what is God to do? He of course, sends His Son – our Lord Jesus Christ.

Looking at how God’s people treated God’s prophets - standing at the top of the ski hill - Jesus did not hesitate to go where others had been mistreated or killed. He went. And He went not out of ignorance, nor out of unreasonable expectations. Jesus went knowing full well how He would be received and treated, and even killed. But He went nevertheless because of His love for sinners. He came into this world because of His love for you and me. For the rejection of Jesus is vastly different than that of the other prophets of God. For unlike the prophets, His rejection, His crucifixion and death are the means by which He became the cornerstone of our salvation. God’s glory and His love for us is revealed in Christ’s rejection.

At the very beginning of Luke’s Gospel, going all the way back to Christmas and just after Jesus was born, the priest Simeon looked at Jesus as a little child and said, “*Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed*” (Luke 2:34). This is just as true today as it ever was. If we are honest, we all know that we are or will be broken and crushed. Most of us have relationships that cause us grief. Most of us have stinging disappointments. All of us have bodies that will succumb to the cold inevitable grip of death. No one lives forever - we will be crushed. But to those who believe in Christ, we are crushed by the Son who calls us to repentance. We are called to turn from our sin and trust in Him for forgiveness. Seeing the cornerstone of our faith lifted up on the cross, we know of God’s love. We know that He does not leave us alone in death. He does not leave us alone when we suffer. Instead He gives us everything He possibly can, even His life.

If you’ve ever watched little children take swimming lessons with their parents, you’ll know that when it comes time for the kids, who are just learning to swim, to get into the water that is well above their heads, the parents do not stand on the edge of the pool and push their children in. Instead, they get into the water themselves hold out their arms, and get ready to catch their children as they jump into the water with them.

Jesus does not stand at the top of a hill – or on the edge of a pool – or even at the entrance to the grave and say, “You go first”. He doesn’t say, “I’ll be right behind you.” What a comfort it is for me to know that as I looked into the graves of friends and loved ones, as I have stood in the cemeteries around Eastern, IA, that Christ stood with us and said, “I’ll go first”. But instead of getting into the water or going down a hill, He went up the hill called Calvary. And there, though it seemed as if He didn’t make it, three days later He rose from the grave. So, that, all those who enter that grave believing and trusting in Him, have salvation and will rise again as well.

This is why St. Paul writes in Philippians 3:8-9: *Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of*

all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith. Coming to faith everything changed for Paul. What he thought was important, became garbage. And knowing his salvation rested upon the cornerstone of Christ, he was ready to lose everything to ensure Christ's resurrection and glory would be his through faith.

When we find ourselves on a difficult trail or are getting ready to jump into the deep end of life, remember what Christ has done for you. Remember your baptism, remember what He has given you in the Lord's Supper. Hear His call to repentance and take comfort that He no matter what we face in life or in death, He has died and lives again. So, He doesn't make us go first, but has given His all, so that we might be forgiven, encouraged, and live as His people with hope and peace today and into eternity. Amen.

