



# Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

**April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 A.D.**

**Palm Sunday**

*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

*(Psalm 118:19-21)*

Open to me the gates of righteousness,

**that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.**

<sup>20</sup> This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

<sup>21</sup> **I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.**

<sup>22</sup> The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup> **This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.**

<sup>24</sup> This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

<sup>25</sup> **Save us, we pray, O LORD! O LORD, we pray, give us success!**

<sup>26</sup> Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

We bless you from the house of the LORD.

<sup>27</sup> **The LORD is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us. Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar!**

<sup>28</sup> You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you.

<sup>29</sup> **Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!**

*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 Apostles' Creed. Everyone else may continue the service as printed....*

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## Scripture Lesson

*John 12:12-19*

<sup>12</sup>The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup>So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" <sup>14</sup>And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

<sup>15</sup> "Fear not, daughter of Zion;  
behold, your king is coming,  
sitting on a donkey's colt!"

<sup>16</sup> His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. <sup>17</sup> The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. <sup>18</sup> The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. <sup>19</sup> So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him."

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

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### **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**

- Colton (infant son of Ian & Bailey Stevens) born 3/31

#### **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**

- David (uncle of Jennet Volden) - bicycle accident
- Kim Neuhaus - recovering after hospitalization
- Faye Sieck - health issues, upcoming surgery
- Shauna (niece of Schmiths) - cancer diagnoses
- 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**

- Candi Engel - Garnet Place

### **Mourning**

- Gene (husband of Karen Schmidt) - died 3/9

### **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...Most merciful God, as the people of Jerusalem, with palms in their hands, gathered to greet Your dearly beloved Son when He came into His Holy City, grant that we may ever hail Him as our King and, when He comes again, may go forth to meet Him with trusting and steadfast hearts and follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life; 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

O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that we turn from our wickedness and live. Graciously behold Your people who plead to You and spare us. Withdraw the scourge of Your wrath and be moved in mercy to turn away all pestilence from us; for the sake of 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.**



✠ *Great Expectations* ✠

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

Growing up as a child, and then having entered the workforce, and eventually starting my own family, I have always believed that some of the worst words that a person can hear are, “I expected more from you.” If we live around, if we have contact with, other people we have expectations placed upon us. And whether we are a child standing in front of a disappointed parent or teacher, a husband or wife in front of an upset spouse, or an employee listening to a supervisor or employer, no one wants to hear from someone close to them that they didn’t live up to their expectations.

In many ways Palm Sunday is about expectations. The crowds did not line the streets for, wave palm branched in front of, and lay down their garments for just anyone who came into the city of Jerusalem. They did that for a king. The did that for Jesus, because they had expectations of Him. He had raised Lazarus from the dead. He had changed water into wine and many other miracles to show His power and authority as the Son of God. And so, the crowd had every reason to believe that this man coming to them on a colt would be a king reigning with the righteousness of David and the wisdom of Solomon. They had high expectations from Jesus and they were sure that they would not be disappointed.

But as it turns out, they were wrong. And it wasn’t Jesus’ fault, it was that they had the wrong expectations. As it turns out they had expected, not too much from Jesus, they had expected too little from this king riding to them on a donkey.

Looking at the expectations of the crowds lining the streets on Palm Sunday each one of us should ask, “What are my expectations of Jesus?” Maybe we’re a little bit like King Herod, who wanted to see Jesus perform miracles. If our expectation of Jesus is just to have Him do a few miracles when we need them or so we can be amused, such an attitude pushes Jesus to the side

of our lives, out to the fringes, only bringing Him out when we need Him or when it is convenient or cool.

Or do we have expectations like the crowd laying their coats garments and waving their palm branches? Do we expect Him to rule with power and might? Crushing everyone who opposes us and shielding us from every evil? Always healing our illnesses and lavishing wealth upon us? If this is what we expect from Jesus - if we expect from Jesus a few miracles here and there, a powerful earthly kingdom, and perfect health and enormous wealth, if that is all that we expect from Jesus than He will not meet our expectations. If all we expect from Jesus is success in our daily tasks and evil to be held back from us, then chances are we'll turn on Him like the crowds in Jerusalem.

But we as Christians must let Jesus be Jesus in our lives. We must let God be God in the ways that He wants. If He desires to give some of us healthy bodies or more wealth than what we really need, then let us rejoice. But when we are being bullied in the hallways of our school or reading the insults our "friends" are saying online, and we want Jesus to make our torment go away, we must not forget the insults and torments He endured this Holy Week. When we go to the hospital or nursing home and expect a miraculous healing of the body, we must also go to the foot of the cross and see our Savior, who heals both our bodies and souls by paying the price for our sin. When we sit at the kitchen table and see an ever growing pile of bills, we are called by the Spirit to pray, but also to see our Savior on the cross redeeming us from the punishment of Hell and giving us the riches and splendor of Heaven. When we stand at the grave, our own or of someone's we love, our faith must see Christ buried – yet raised to life, so that one day we might rise as well. When we expect Jesus to meet our standards, when we want Jesus to do a trick or give us a treat, we must not forget to see Him riding on the donkey, our king on His way to the cross. For it is there, and only there, that we will see God in His true glory and His true splendor. Because it is there where we see the love that God has for each one of us.

And so when we are tempted to say "I expected more from you, Jesus" when things don't go our way, don't just think of the wonderful miracles and signs that Jesus performed - Look at Him on the cross. And when we realize that His suffering and death were for you and for the sins of the world, often we, sinners that we are, will actually find ourselves saying, "I expected less!"

When we think about expectations, we know that there are times when people fail to live up to ours and we all know that there are times when we fail to meet theirs. Looking at God's Law, we also realize that there are times when we fail to meet His expectations. But these are the reasons why we must let Jesus be Jesus and not limit Him to our own. But we should see Him as He truly is, as He reveals Himself in His Word. As He does not meet people's standards nor conform Himself to our desires. Instead as our King and as our Savior He exceeds them as He lives and rules with love and mercy. He exceeds them as He knowingly rides into the very city where He will be arrested, unfairly tried, tortured and executed for our salvation. This does not mean that we always get what we want or what we expect, but by giving up His life on the cross, He has given us the Kingdom of Heaven – this Palm Sunday we are reminded that our King has given us even more than what we could expect. Amen.

