



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

April 24th, 2022 A.D.

Second Sunday of Easter

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.

Introit

(From 1 Peter 2 and Psalm 105)

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—

if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;

make known his deeds among the peoples!

Sing to him, sing praises to him;

tell of all his wondrous works!

Glory in his holy name;

let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

Seek the LORD and his strength;

seek his presence continually!

Remember the wondrous works that he has done,

his miracles, and the judgments he uttered.

He remembers his covenant forever,

the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.

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

(Revelation 1:4-18)

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood ⁶and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷Behold, he

is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

⁸“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

⁹I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet ¹¹saying, “Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.”

¹²Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴The hairs of his head were white like wool, as white as snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, ¹⁵his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. ¹⁶In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

¹⁷When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, ¹⁸and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.”

Sermon – † *Revealing Easter Joy* † *(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

- Nolan Russman - 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
- Project 24 students, Yvonne and Lorine

Healing

- Millie Zimmerman - upcoming surgery 4/26
- Lorelei Hackbardt - recovering after surgery
- Natalie Heller - recovering after surgery
- John Hamm - recovering after surgery
- Pastor Krueger (Pastor at Zion) - health issues
- Rob Willms - recovering after hospitalization
- Erin Wilson - health issues
- Kim Neuhaus - recovering after hospitalization
- Faye Sieck - health issues, upcoming 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

Homebound

- Del Block - The Gardens

Mourning

- Carol (mother of Angie Pfeil) - died 4/15

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, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Concluding Prayers

Almighty God and gracious Father, in Your mercy look on those whose increasing years bring them weakness, anxiety, distress, or loneliness. Grant that they may always know care and respect, concern and understanding. Grant them willing hearts to accept help and, as their strength wanes, increase their faith with the constant assurance of Your love through Jesus Christ, their Savior. **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.



✠ *Revealing Easter Joy* ✠

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

Today, and for the next several weeks, Christians all over the world will continue in the Easter season, celebrating our Lord's resurrection from the dead. However, despite reading all of the Easter accounts in the Bible, singing our favorite Easter hymns and songs, and maybe even dying or looking for a few colorful eggs – many of us have a hard time living out our Easter faith. What I mean is that Christians know that Christ has risen and we celebrate this great event, but so often we live our lives as if His body is still in the grave.

Perhaps this is because we are so used to seeing Jesus in what we call His "State of Humiliation". This is the time in Jesus' life and ministry when He doesn't use all of the power that belongs to Him as the Son of God. We see this State of Humiliation most clearly in the Gospels, where we read of Jesus being born in a lowly stable; tempted in the wilderness; walking, sleeping, and eating all over the Holy Land; and eventually being arrested and crucified in Jerusalem – all things that seem so very "un-godlike". But Jesus does these things in order for us to be saved. He humbly took upon Himself our human nature so that He could be placed under the Law of God, perfectly keep it, and yet still die as a sacrifice for you and me. St. Paul writes in his second letter to the Corinthians, "For our sake [God] made him to be sin who knew no sin, so

that in him we might become the righteousness of God (II Corinthians 5:21). This is the image of Jesus that I believe we have in our minds most of the time.

And if we always think of Jesus in this way, even though we know He has gloriously risen from the grave, we'll have a hard time living in this glory. When we check the news and see images of mass graves in Ukraine; when the doctor says "cancer"; when we attend a funeral service and find ourselves sitting in the front pew of the church; when these like this happen it might be hard to see the glory of our risen Lord. We might just see the nail marks in His hands and His side. We might just see Jesus in His state of humiliation and wonder if the One who died and rose for us really is in charge – if He really has made all of our enemies His footstool. Because we live in this "now, not yet" time, where Christ has conquered the devil and the grave but the complete victory isn't fully realized quite yet – over the next few weeks, we'll be focusing on the appointed readings in the lectionary from what the King James Version of the Bible calls *The Revelation of St. John the Divine*, or what most of us know simply as the book of *Revelation*.

Now whenever we start talking about Revelation, it's important to remember what this book of the Bible is and what it's all about. To do this, we simply go to Revelation 1:1 where we begin to read, "The revelation of Jesus Christ..." And there you have it. This book of the Bible, that is filled with all kinds of prophecy, all kinds of wonderful and terrible imagery, is all about Jesus Christ. And not just Jesus as we most commonly see Him in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, but Jesus Christ in His State of Exaltation! Revelation reveals Jesus Christ to the Church in all of His splendor and glory. God gives John this vision of Jesus to write down so that Christians may be comforted in times of persecution, but also in times of frustration, sadness, loneliness, or any time when we wonder if God is in charge.

And exactly does John see? Well, beginning in v.12 of our reading for today, John sees seven golden lampstands and in the midst of them "one like a son of man." The seven lampstands represent the seven churches in Asia Minor for whom John is recording this vision. And standing there among them is Jesus Christ. The term "Son of Man" is one of, if not thee, favorite ways that Jesus refers to Himself in the Gospels. And the description of this Son of Man confirms that it is our risen Lord. The clothes of this Son of Man, as well as the description of His hair, His eyes, His feet, and His face are all drawn from both the Old Testament and the Transfiguration, confirming His identity as Jesus Christ.

John writes in 1:17-18, "*When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though dead. But He laid His right hand on me saying, 'Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.'*" At the Transfiguration, John is able to remain standing before Christ and only willingly falls down to worship Him (Matthew 17). But here, John is completely knocked down as if he were dead. John could no more stand in Christ's presence here in heaven than he could touch the sun or than Moses could stand in the presence of God on Sinai, unless given special permission. It is strikingly similar to what Isaiah said when he saw God on His throne, "*Woe to me! For I am lost*" (Isaiah 6:5)! No one can stand before the exalted Son of Man because of the corruption of sin and God's own holiness.

But Jesus Christ gives John grace and permission to stand before Him. Christ puts His right hand on John and says, "Fear not." No other person has ever been permitted to see and describe the exalted Christ in such detail. Stephen saw the exalted Christ at the right hand of God and was therefore comforted just before his death, but he gave no description. Paul was met on the way to Damascus by the exalted Christ and was once given revelations up in the third heaven,

but he also never gives a description. Only John was given the grace not only to see the exalted Christ, but also to share that vision with the Church. To share that vision with you!

The book of Revelation is what John sees as Jesus Christ reveals Himself in all of His glory. Normally, no one could stand before Christ in this way. But with Christ's grace and mercy, John has nothing to fear and is commanded to write this vision down for the benefit of the Church. Today, when we suffer from the effects of sin and the sinful world in which we still live, we remember that Jesus Christ has risen. But even more than that, we also remember that this Jesus is truly God in all of His glory, power, and splendor. As He tells John, He hold the keys of Death and Hades in His hand! So, despite our suffering today in this world, He who died and rose again is indeed in charge and all things are working according to His great plan of salvation. There will come a day when Christ returns as He promised, and like John, we will behold Him in all His glory. And therefore, like John, we too have nothing to fear as we live in the joy of Easter. Amen.

