



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

May 22nd, 2022 A.D. – The Sixth 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 Psalm 54

P Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you;

G **he will never permit the righteous to be moved.**

My heart is in anguish within me;

the terrors of death have fallen upon me.

But I call to God,

and the LORD will save me.

Evening and morning and at noon I utter my complaint and moan,

and he hears my voice.

He redeems my soul in safety from the battle that I wage,

for many are arrayed against me.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

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. This week, Pastor Doug Francik is filling in for Pastor Erickson. Everyone else may continue the service as printed....

Scripture Lesson

(John 16:23-33)

²³[Jesus said:] "In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. ²⁴Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

²⁵"I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. ²⁶In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; ²⁷for the

Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. ²⁸I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.”

²⁹His disciples said, “Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! ³⁰Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God.” ³¹Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? ³²Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. ³³I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

Sermon – † *Overcoming* †

(A copy of Pastor Erickson’s sermon 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

- Randy Schmith - returned after servant event at Juarez/El Paso
- Larry and Sharon Easler - celebrating 65 years of marriage today
- Doug and Sheryl Knutson - celebrating 50 years of marriage

Entrusting into God's Care

- Wayne Schilling - hospice care
- The Kroemer family as they help a friend
- 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

- Nancy Lee Siebenmann - hospitalization
- Dan (father of Michelle Wiersig) - recovering after surgery
- Faye Sieck - recovering after surgery
- Betty Hein - hospitalization
- Natalie Heller - recovering after surgery
- Erin Wilson - health issues
- 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

- Melba Davison - Terrace Glen, Marion

Mourning

- Mechele (friend of Linda Patten) - died 5/14

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

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; 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.



✠ *Overcoming* ✠

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

What is the world coming to? Have you found yourself wondering that lately? As you watch the news at night or read the paper in the morning, it can often feel like the world is falling apart. You can pick just about any part of the globe these days and discover some sort of conflict. Mass shootings here in the United States. Tensions in and around China. An all out war in Ukraine! What's the world coming to? And what are Christians to do, scattered throughout a pagan world that seems to thrive on hatred, violence, and oppression? What are Christians to do when we know that we are in the minority, out of place, out of step with the rest of the world?

In our Scripture Lesson, Jesus tells the disciples that they are to pray! When the world is falling apart, when our lives are falling apart, the disciples of Christ can pray with confidence, because Christ has already overcome the world.

Speaking to His followers in the Gospel lesson, Jesus has just finished telling the disciples many things in figures of speech. We've heard some of these things before - like Jesus is a shepherd and we are members of His flock. We of course are not literally sheep, but the image that Jesus gives to us helps prepare His followers to endure what lies ahead for them. All too soon, His disciples will be scattered, as He Himself will be betrayed and crucified. The very thing, or the very person, that kept them united and centered, would be gone.

The disciples could not imagine living in a world without Jesus, yet in our Gospel reading in just a few hours that is exactly what is going to happen. They will watch Jesus be arrested, only after being betrayed by one their own. They will watch a trial, which is nothing more a manipulative scam. And of course watch Jesus suffer the torments of crucifixion and death. These disciples could truly ask, as we often do, "What is the world coming to?"

Yet, it is in the midst of all of this uncertainty that they are facing, that our Lord reassures them. He tells them plainly, *“But take heart; I have overcome the world”*. Though Christ had yet to endure the suffering of the cross or gloriously rise from the grave on Easter, the outcome of these things was already assured. It was as good as completed, as Christ knew He would accomplish the one thing that He was sent to us for – our salvation.

And for disciples like us, who are on this side of the cross, who believe that Jesus has already died and risen again, we can be confident and hopeful about what lies ahead in the future for us as well. Yet so very often, the future still seems to weigh us down and cast a shadow over us, despite what Christ has done for us in the past.

Perhaps this is because we have become accustomed to hearing people tell us about the future, only to be wrong. Athletes make claims of victory, only to have their teams go down in defeat. How many polls during election seasons have claimed that one particular candidate would win the race, only to have the actual vote go the other way? How many times have we made plans to go outside or stay indoors, only to be frustrated because the weather was not what was predicted? And that’s the problem with making guesses about the future, even with the most accurate data and greatest amount of confidence – no one really knows what is going to happen - except for Jesus.

Therefore, if we leave Christ out of our lives, than we can be sure about only one thing concerning the future – that it will be uncertain. Without Christ, we are left alone asking, “What is the world coming to?” We agonize; we worry; we wrestle with the problems the world, the nation, our communities, our families, and of course even our own lives. We forget that Jesus has taught us things so that we might have peace. We forget that Jesus has overcome the world through His death and resurrection. But with Christ, we know what lies ahead for us. We know that sin will be destroyed. That our frustrations and suffering will end. And that even death, that most certain and powerful enemy of ours, will be conquered and destroyed.

And so what can we do? What are Christians to do, scattered throughout a pagan world that thrives on hatred, violence, and oppression? We can pray. For life in this uncertain world, Christ assures us that we can pray with confidence –in His name. “Whatever you ask the Father in Jesus’ name”, He says, “He will give it to you”. Up until this time it seems that the disciples had never asked for anything in Jesus’ name, but now Jesus tells them that the time is coming to pray in His name. *“Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full”* Jesus tells them. This is the complete opposite of living with fear and uncertainty over the future.

As some of you know, I love watching the evening news when I have the time. And I have a series of news website that I go through each day. But sometimes, after watching or reading the news, I’ll wonder why I do it. When I hear of certain stories about events and people around the world I find myself asking, “What’s the world coming to?” and I feel that there isn’t much that I can do about it. But I can pray. No matter how big the problem on a national or even international level, we can pray to the Lord about it. And if God can answer our prayers about politics or war or natural disasters, we know that He answers our prayers when we are sick, tired, or lonely. So as Christians, we no longer need to ask what is the world coming to. Instead, we may ask our Heavenly Father for whatever it is that we need - in the name of Jesus Christ, who has overcome the world. Amen.

