



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

June 5, 2022 A.D.

The Day of Pentecost

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.

Introit

From a Liturgical Text and Psalm 104

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful,
and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia.

O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

These all look to you,
to give them their food in due season.

When you give it to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

When you send forth your Spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the ground.

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 –

Sermon – ✠ *God Comes Down From Heaven* ✠ *(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

- Graduating Seniors

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

- Lynn Madsen - recovering after surgery
- Bridget Rinderknecht - job changes
- Nancy Lee Siebenmann - recovering after hospitalization
- Faye Sieck - recovering after surgery
- 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
- Carol Grimminger - recovering after hospitalization
- Sharon Ramsey - recovering after surgery
- Dave Christian - recovering at home after cardiac surgery

Homebound

- Betty Hein - at home

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) - US Navy
- Harrison (son of Rob & Faye Sieck) - US Army

Collect of the Day

O God, on this day You once taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit. Grant us in our day by the same Spirit to have a right understanding in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy consolation; 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.



✠ *God Comes Down From Heaven* ✠

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

As we observe the feast of Pentecost this weekend, most Christians understand this festival celebrates the Holy Spirit being sent to the apostles, as we read of in Acts 2. And while this day is often said to be the birthday of the Church, as the apostles were now sharing the “mighty works of God” in languages from around the world, there are other aspects to this great event worth noting. Among those is the way the Holy Spirit has bound Himself to the Word of God and the way that the Triune God and His love comes to us through that Word. Of course, God coming to visit the people of His creation is nothing new the Scriptures, even as the results of those visits vary widely for the people being visited.

Take, for instance, the people building the tower of Babel in today’s Scripture lesson. In Genesis 11 we read that people came from the east to place called Shinar, likely just north of modern day Baghdad. Settling down in that region, “*they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth”* (11:4). This did not make God happy. It wasn’t that God was against tall building or cities, those are not the sins here in this case. What is a sin, is the attitude and the reasons for building this particular city and tower. We are told that the people wanted to “make a name for themselves”. They did not want to submit to God’s will or authority in their lives, they wanted to do what they, and they alone, wanted. So, it’s no surprise that even though in Genesis 1:28 God tells Adam and Eve, “*Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it...*”; and in Genesis 9:1 we read, “*And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth’*”, here, on the plains of Shinar the people have no intention of following God’s plan for them to fill the earth – the people want to stay right where they are! Their plans start with themselves, from the bottom, hoping to work their way up to the heavens and to God, who ironically, doesn’t really have a place in their plans, other than being the final goal. They are essentially looking for their identity, their security, their happiness apart from God. And it seems to be the pinnacle of people’s self-centeredness and their arrogance to live apart from God

Unfortunately, people are still trying to build their towers of Babel today. Take for instance the internet. In the May edition of *The Atlantic*, the social scientist Dr. Jonathan Haidt points out that in the 1990’s with its’ email and chat rooms, the internet seemed to make it easier than ever to stay connected with people around the world. He says, “In the first decade of the new century,

social media was widely believed to be a boon to democracy. What dictator could impose his will on an interconnected citizenry?” He even goes so far as to say in 2011, “...Google Translate became available on virtually all smartphones, so you could say that 2011 was the year that humanity rebuilt the Tower of Babel. We were closer than we had ever been to being ‘one people’ and we had effectively overcome the curse of division by language.”

Thumbing through my phone’s calendar the other day, I was reminded of another tower being built in our society. Because I gave permission for Google to put holidays like Christmas and Easter on my calendar automatically, the First Day of LGBTQ+ Month showed up on June 1st. Of course, June is now known as Pride Month, which CNN reports is “when the world’s LGBTQ communities come together and celebrate the freedom to be themselves.” CNN could have just as easily written Pride Month is when people celebrate the freedom to “make a name for themselves”. And while the past sins of discrimination and persecution of any group of people have no place in the church, it is worth asking if we and our society should really embrace the pride of people sinning against God?

In Genesis, when God saw people trying to make a name for themselves; when He saw people disregarding His will and His plans – He said, “*Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another’s speech*” (Genesis 11:7). God would not sit back and allow people to disregard His will; to create their own identity; to find safety in any other place than with Him. And today, it seems as if God is working the same way. Far from being a force for democracy and uniting people for good, Jonathan Haidt writes in the article I mentioned above called, “Why the Past 10 Years of American Life Have Been Uniquely Stupid”, “...on balance, social media amplifies political polarization; foments populism, especially right-wing populism; and is associated with the spread of misinformation”! The internet, which was supposed to be the information super-highway, has led to an overwhelming amount of misinformation. The internet that was supposed to unite nations and peoples, has actually caused division and hatred to grow.

As communities that are proud of their sin reject God’s ways and remain persistent in their rebellion against God, is it any wonder that we see so many people suffering? Mary sings in her song, “[God] has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts” (Luke 1:51). So on June 2nd, when I heard the organizer of Sioux City Pride Parade say on Iowa Public Radio how much progress has been made for the LGBTQ community in the last 10 years, you would think things would be great in that community with what their so called “progress” and increased acceptance. But in fact, according to National Public Radio and The Trevor Project, depression, anxiety, and thoughts of suicide have all increased among LGBTQ teens over the last three years. It seems that the higher our Towers of Babel are built, the worse things become for those who cling to them.

Now I believe that it is unfair to say that people suffer in particular ways for particular sins, but do we really believe that rebelling against God and trying to find meaning and identity apart from Him will work out well for anybody? I say this to be honest, not to be cruel. For the fact of the matter is that while we may only used the internet for pure reasons and keep the 6th commandment perfectly, we all have our own little Towers of Babel. We all have rebelled against God; we all try to make names for ourselves; we all sin against God. Which is why it is so important that remember Pentecost.

Because on Pentecost, God came down from Heaven once again. But this time it was not to confuse people’s language. It was to overcome the language barrier. It was so that people from all around the known world could hear the Good News in their own language. In John 14:26-27

Jesus told His disciples, “*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.*”²⁷ *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.*” Jesus told the disciples what would happen on that first Pentecost. He told them that the Holy Spirit would be sent to bring humanity back together, not only by overcoming the barrier of language, but also by giving us the love of Christ. The love that God showed to us when the Son, Jesus came down from Heaven Himself to die on the cross for the sins of the world. For the sins of those who cause division; for the sins of those who identify as members of the LGBTQ community; for my sins; and for yours. And this love of Christ, which the Holy Spirit freely gives to the world, enables us to have all of the things that we had hoped our little Towers of Babel would give, including the ability to love one another as God has loved us (Ephesians 5:2).

Today, when we “read, study, and inwardly digest” the Bible, the Holy Spirit continues to come to us. And when God visits us today, He still teaches us the Law and His commandments, but more importantly He teaches us everything that Jesus has said and done. He teaches us that when Jesus came down from Heaven, this was the Good News for the entire world to hear. And with the Gospel in our lives, God coming to us is no longer something that we need to be afraid of or worry about. It is always for our good and done out of His love. Amen.

