



# Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

**June 19, 2022 A.D.**

**The Second Sunday after 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.**

## **Psalm**

From *Psalm 71*

**P** Be to me a rock of refuge, to which I may continually come;

**C** **you have given the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.**

You who have made me see many troubles and calamities will revive me again;

**from the depths of the earth you will bring me up again.**

You will increase my greatness

**and comfort me again.**

I will also praise you with the harp for your faithfulness, O my God;

**I will sing praises to you with the lyre, O Holy One of Israel.**

My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to you;

**my soul also, which you have redeemed.**

And my tongue will talk of your righteous help all the day long,

**for they have been put to shame and disappointed who sought to do me hurt.**

*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 Nicene Creed. Everyone else may continue the service as printed....*

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## **Scripture Lesson**

(*Luke 8:26-39*)

<sup>26</sup>Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. <sup>27</sup>When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs. <sup>28</sup>When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me." <sup>29</sup>For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the

demon into the desert.) <sup>30</sup>Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Legion,” for many demons had entered him. <sup>31</sup>And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. <sup>32</sup>Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. <sup>33</sup>Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

<sup>34</sup>When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. <sup>35</sup>Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. <sup>36</sup>And those who had seen it told them how the demon-possessed man had been healed. <sup>37</sup>Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. <sup>38</sup>The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, <sup>39</sup>“Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

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

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### **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**

- Christian Fathers
- Beckham (grandson of Phil and Michelle Hedtke) - born 6/6
- Gordon & Ethel Doehrmann - 50th anniversary on 6/23
- Natalie Heller - recovered after surgery

#### **Entrusting into God's Care**

- Wayne Schilling - hospice care
- The Kroemer family as they help a friend
- Bridget Rinderknecht - job changes
- 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**

- Angela Yuza - recovering after surgery
- Emily Kroemer - recovering after broken ankle
- John (friend of the Dunns) - chemo treatment
- Mike Raymon - back pain
- Joyce Fritz - health issues
- Lynn Madsen - recovering after surgery
- Nancy Lee Siebenmann - recovering after hospitalization
- Faye Sieck - recovering after surgery
- Erin Wilson - health issues
- Doug Knutson - cancer treatment
- John Siebenmann - health issues
- Lee Rathje - health issues
- 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**

- Nadine Wax - 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, You have prepared for those who love You such good things as surpass our understanding. Cast out all sins and evil desires from us, and pour into our hearts Your Holy Spirit to guide us into all blessedness; 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.**



Mercy, peace and love to all of you from God – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

When many Christians today read or hear our Scripture Lesson this morning – they may struggle to see how this account of Jesus’ ministry affects their own, personal lives. The story itself is clear enough – Jesus casts out and shows His authority over numerous demons that had been tormenting a man from for some time. But what does this have to do with us, here in Cedar Rapids, most of whom have little or no experience with demonic possession and may ever wonder is such things even happen?

So some look at this account from Luke 8 as somewhat of a relic from a past era that has long since passed with the rise of modern medicine and science. They will say that this man’s condition, that God describes in His Word as “having demons”, has a more material explanation. They will point out that Luke, who was a physician by the way, and his readers back then, didn’t know about mental illness or any of the numerous medical conditions that could explain why a man would break out of captivity to live among the dead, wearing no clothes. And so then, they allegorize the story saying something along the lines of, “Just as Jesus released this man from the demons that tormented him, so to today can believing in Jesus free yourself, from whatever it is that torments you!” Maybe that is a bad or unhealthy habit. Maybe an addiction, a bad job or marriage, or a difficult neighbor or an acquaintance. Whatever it is that keeps your from being your best self, some will say, Jesus can free you from it.

And that is true. But if we explain away this man’s true condition in our Gospel Lesson this morning, if we simply say that this story has some truth in it, but is not true in and of itself – then we are not only wildly missing Luke’s, and therefore, God’s point in writing this part of the Bible down for us. But even worse, we are also missing out on an incredible amount of God’s love and comfort. So why do so many people today, even faithful and well-meaning Christians do that? Why not grab hold of all the blessings that God gives to us through His Word? Well, it’s because if we don’t explain things away, if we don’t allegorize the Word of God, then we have to come face to face with some very uncomfortable facts about ourselves, and the world that we live in. One of which, is that there are not only angels in God’s creation, but also demons.

When God made the world, the book of Genesis tells us that it was good. But sometime between the end of the Sixth day of Creation and Genesis 3, a number of the angels rebelled against God and Satan shows up on the scene. Now, we live in the uncomfortable world where there is a war being fought around us that we can neither see, nor control - a battle between God and His angels and Satan and his demons. It is true that this battle has already been won, but it still rages on around us.

The Bible speaks of this activity between the angels and demons in Genesis – when Satan tempts Adam and Eve. We see Satan once again up to his deceitful ways

in the book of Job. In the Gospel of Luke we not only see Legion, we see angels coming to the shepherds at Christmas and Satan tempting Jesus after His baptism. St. Paul says in Ephesians (6:12), “...we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against...the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in heavenly places”. And Peter says, “...be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”

Most of us don't like to believe there are things that we can't control in our lives. And our society has fallen into this trap of if we can't see it or understand it, it must not exist or be true. But nothing would make any enemy that we might have, including the devil, happier than to think He does not exist. For when we say the temptations of the Evil one, or the work of the demons are just unfortunate natural activities, we become vulnerable to their work by lowering our own defenses and failing to seek help from the One who has already defeated them. Of course, Satan and the demons want you to think they don't exist. Because if Satan manifested himself clearly to the whole world today, millions would be turning to Christ tomorrow!

And so, today as we hear our text, we acknowledge the presence of Satan and his demons in this sinful and fallen world. And yet at the same time, we don't fear or worry about them! This may sound strange that we don't worry about what Paul says are “cosmic powers” and what Peter describes as a “roaring lion”. But while we acknowledge the existence of the Devil and his demons, we don't fear them because of what Christ has done – what Christ has done in our text this today, but also what Christ has done on the cross – once and for all people.

In Luke 8 we see how easily Jesus casts out and controls even a whole army of Satan's worst demons. He is the One, True Son of God who has been given all authority on heaven and earth from God the Father. As we read earlier in Luke's Gospel, not even Satan Himself can tempt Jesus into sin or to be led away from following our heavenly Father. If Christ, with whom we have been united with in Holy Baptism, has this power and authority over the devil himself, why would we fear anything in this world, or the next?

But, as if all of this were not enough, lest we fall into temptation; Lest we fail to trust in God – Jesus has taken care of that as well. For Jesus has had mercy, not just on the man from Geresenes, but also on every sinner. And God's mercy is more than just feeling sorry or empathy for someone. It moves God into action. It moves our Savior from His throne in Heaven, to the manger in Bethlehem, to His baptism in the Jordan, to the cross on Calvary and of course to His resurrection in the empty tomb. This action of our Lord and Savior does so much more than help us become our best selves. It actually saves us from Hell and death, and gives us life that will never pass away. This is what God teaches us in His Word and is the great work of Christ that He does for us and for all people. Amen.