



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

June 26, 2022 A.D. – Third 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 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

(From Psalm 85)

Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
**for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;
but let them not turn back to folly.**

Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Righteousness will go before him
and make his footsteps a way.

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

(Luke 9:51-62)

⁵¹When the days drew near for [Jesus] to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.
⁵²And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. ⁵³But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" ⁵⁵But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶And they went on to another village.

⁵⁷As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." ⁵⁹To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." ⁶⁰And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." ⁶¹Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." ⁶²Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Sermon – † *Facing Freedom* † (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

- Faye Sieck - recovered after surgery
- Sharon Ramsey - 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

- Ron (brother of Ray McGraw) - cancer treatment
- Norm Rutz - cancer treatment
- Lynn Madsen - recovering after surgery
- Joyce Fritz - recovering after surgery
- Angela Yuza - recovering after surgery
- Emily Kroemer - recovering after broken ankle
- John (friend of the Dunns) - chemo treatment
- Mike Raymon - back pain
- Erin Wilson - health issues
- Doug Knutson - cancer treatment
- John Siebenmann - health issues
- Lee Rathje - health issues
- Cindy Broadwater - relief of foot pain
- Dave Christian - recovering at home after cardiac surgery

Homebound

- Del Block - The Gardens

Mourning

- LaBelle (mother of Rick Foreman) - died 6/22

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

Lord of all power and might, author and giver of all good things, graft into our hearts the love of Your name and nourish us with all goodness that we may love and serve our neighbor; 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

O God, most merciful Father, without Your care and preservation all things wither and die. Open the windows of heaven and send bountiful rain on the western states of our nation to revive and renew the land. Graciously hear our prayer that we may praise and glorify Your name forever and ever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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.



✠ *Facing Freedom* ✠

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

The famous radio personality, Paul Harvey, once said that while he was no preacher, he was a historian, and the two are often related. So, he then began to discuss the importance of God in the founding and maintaining of our nation. Paul Harvey said that while Americans today often think of “independence” on the Fourth of July, the founders of our nation believed in a “dependence” upon God. The freedom they had and had to fight for, was not a freedom to do whatever you wanted to do, but a freedom to do what you ought to do. Paul Harvey then mentioned that he believed this was part of the reason that a nation that did not even make up 5% of the world’s population, had over half of its wealth.

It’s hard to say if the last idea of Paul Harvey mentioned is true or not, but his idea that our freedom is not a freedom to do what we want, but rather a freedom to do what we ought or what we should, started me thinking about our text. In Luke 9:51-62 we see One who has more freedom and power than anyone could ever dream of, and we see Him doing something remarkable with it, using it not to serve Himself, but rather to serve those who despise and rejected Him.

Of course, I’m talking about Jesus Christ - true God and true Man. As God, His power knows no limits. But in the beginning of our text there is this little phrase, that is so easy to miss when you read the Bible, that most people just jump

right over it. If you're not looking for it, you might not see these words that tell us Jesus was not using His freedom for His own selfish purposes, but rather for the good of others. Luke writes in 9:51 that Jesus, "*set his face to go to Jerusalem.*"

Jesus setting His face towards Jerusalem does not sound like that big of a deal really, until we think of what will happen there. Anyone who has read all of Luke's Gospel, or any of the Gospels for that matter, knows that Jesus will be killed in Jerusalem. There He will be crucified on the cross to die as the last and perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world, including yours and mine. But you don't even have to read the end of Luke's Gospel to find this out, because earlier in the same chapter Jesus says that the Son of man must suffer many things, be rejected by the religious elite in Jerusalem, and be killed.

Here we see then that Jesus knew exactly what He was doing when He went to Jerusalem. When He was arrested in the Garden and tried before Pontius Pilate, this was no surprise to Him, nor was the agony of the cross. Yet Christ was nevertheless determined to get to Jerusalem, so that all of these could take place. And Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection had to take place, or else we would still be left responsible for paying the eternal cost of our sin.

This central idea of our Christian faith, that the Lord of all creation would suffer and die for those who sin against Him, has often been called foolish. Many people throughout the ages cannot imagine why God would want to put Himself through so much trouble. But the answer to this question is really quite simple. It is the same reason that parents give up so much of their own lives for the sake of their children. The reason husbands and wives sacrifice for each other. It is why our founding fathers as well as men and women today risk their lives for the ideas of freedom and democracy. These people act out of love – love for their children, their spouses, or their country. And it was God's love for us that sent His only Son Jesus to cross.

Just look at how deep God's love for all people runs when Jesus is rejected by the Samaritans in our Gospel lesson. The disciples want to call down fire from heaven, but Jesus rebukes them. Jesus shows that He is patient and slow to anger, giving the Samaritans and everyone all the time possible to come to repent and come to faith in Him.

As Americans, let always thank God for the freedoms we have in this land. But as Christians, let us always thank God for our dependence on Him for setting us free from the punishment of our sin. And having been set free by the work of Christ Jesus alone, ask yourselves, "What should I do with my freedom?" Does our freedom from sin give us the opportunity to do whatever it is that we want, as those who Jude wrote against believed? Our does knowing we are free from sin, and the price that God had to pay for this to happen, give us a freedom that drives us to do what God wants?

On October 25th, 1517, just six days before Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the church door in Wittenburg, he gave a sermon in a chapel of the castle of Duke George the Bearded in Dresden. In his sermon Martin Luther said, “*Our salvation must ever remain our foremost concern. Man can obtain it only through faith in Christ Jesus, not by his own good works.*” At the dinner table later that night, the Duke asked his wife’s friend, Barbara von Sala, “How did you like Brother Martin’s sermon?” She replied that if she could hear just one more like it she could die in peace. The Duke was enraged upon hearing this and roared, “I’d give money not to have heard it. For it makes men secure and reckless in their sin.”

As Christians who know the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ, that we are saved not by works, but through faith in Jesus, let us never prove Duke George the Bearded correct. Do not let the freedom Christ has given to you make you secure and reckless in your sin. Rather listen to St. Peter as he urges the readers of his first epistle, “*Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God*” (I Peter 2:16). We live as good and faithful servants by keeping God’s commands and obeying His laws. Let us be imitators of Jesus Himself, who did not use His freedom or power to serve His own needs. We do all these things not so that we will be loved or set free, but because Jesus loves us and set His face towards Jerusalem where He went to die and rise again so we could be truly free, not in a country, but into eternity. Amen.

And now may the peace of God that surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds forever in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

