



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

July 3, 2022 A.D.

The Fourth 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 19

The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

Day to day pours out speech,
and night to night reveals knowledge.

Their measuring line goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

In them he has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,
and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them,
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

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

(Luke 10:1-20)

¹After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. ²And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. ⁴Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. ⁵Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' ⁶And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. ⁷And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. ⁸Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. ⁹Heal the sick in it

and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ ¹⁰But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, ¹¹‘Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.’ ¹²I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

¹³‘Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. ¹⁴But it will be more bearable in the judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. ¹⁵And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You shall be brought down to Hades.

¹⁶‘The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me.’

¹⁷The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, ‘Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!’ ¹⁸And he said to them, ‘I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. ²⁰Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.’

Sermon ✠ *Joyous Freedom* ✠ *(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

- Independence and Freedom

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

- Cherie Miller - injury
- Ron (brother of Ray McGraw) - cancer treatment
- Norm Rutz - cancer treatment
- Lynn Madsen - recovering after surgery
- Joyce Fritz - recovering at Manor Care
- 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

- Tom Stock - at home

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

Almighty God, You have built Your Church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone. Continue to send Your messengers to preserve Your people in true peace that, by the preaching of Your Word, Your Church may be kept free from all harm and danger; 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.



✠ *Joyous Freedom* ✠

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

Like most of you, I give thanks to God that I live in the United States of America. The power, the security, the prosperity of our nation is unsurpassed in the history of the world. Just when is the last time any of us have worried about a foreign army invading our land and destroying our homes? Most of us have luxuries that would have been unimaginable 100 or even 25 years ago. Cars, computers, cell phones are so common that most of us don't even think about them until they stop working. And even as inflation rises and the stock market teeters, extreme poverty is relatively low. After all, when was the last time you heard of a fellow American die of starvation?

And yet, despite all of our nation's wealth and power, what do we celebrate and acknowledge in this country? Generally speaking, it's not the wealth or material things, but rather it is our freedom. In fact, we celebrate this weekend as Americans because more than any other country in the history of the world, citizens of this nation have the right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." And this idea of rejoicing in our freedom, not in what we have or maybe even what we have done, is what Jesus is talking about in our Scripture lesson. But the freedom Jesus tells us we have is more than just freedom from kings and unfair taxes. It is the freedom from death and the devil.

In Luke's gospel, Jesus sends out the seventy-two to do what Jesus did and does and will continue to do in the gospel: namely to preach the presence of the kingdom, to heal and perform miracles, and to bring peace to houses. They are sent without provisions, dependent upon the care and provision of God through others. They have renounced their homes and families; their new families being those who receive the message they proclaim. And their mission is sacrificial – Jesus describes them as lambs sent out among the wolves. As they go out to tell others about Christ, they can expect their mission to lead to violence and hostility against them. Yet the disciples sent out are not ashamed of Jesus or His message, and indeed they seem to be honored to go on His behalf.

And when they come back to report to Jesus what they had been doing, they seem to be surprised, not at the hardships they faced, but rather at the success they had. "*Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!*" they say. And Jesus affirms the work that they have been doing when He says, "*I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.*" The seventy-two know that the success of what they have been up to relies only upon Christ, who has given them the power to tread upon the evil that creeps along this world like serpents and scorpions, and Jesus does share in the joy of their success. But in verse 20 Jesus says, "*Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.*"

Just as Americans rejoice in their freedom every year on the Fourth of July, Jesus tells us to rejoice that we have been freed from sin and eternal death. This is the real cause for celebration in the church! Not that demons are driven out from among people or that the church met its' budget last year. Christians celebrate because Christ has given His life for our sin. Through God's grace and mercy, when we face the Day of Judgment, we do not have to worry, because our sins have been washed away by Christ's blood shed on the cross. And now we are truly free. Our sin is gone, Satan's chains have been shattered and no longer does death have a hold on us! This is what we celebrate in the Church - not our work – but Christ's work that gives us freedom.

Now, we are to sacrifice ourselves and work in His kingdom because we have been given this gift – we are being sent out into the world to bring freedom to others. There are those of us who are sent out like the 72, perhaps traveling to Texas or Kansas on mission trips. But you don't have to travel to be sent out by Jesus. When you wake up in the morning and go to work or go to school, Christ is sending you. When you meet people while eating or on the way to the doctor, Christ is sending you. And when you are sent, your thoughts, your words, and most especially your actions will either proclaim that Jesus is Lord in your life, or someone or something else is. Proclaiming that Jesus is the way of salvation is not always easy, and success is anything but guaranteed. In our Gospel lesson we see that sometimes even the preaching of Christ Himself was not enough to turn the people's hearts, as Jesus speaks out against the cities of Chorazin, Bethsaida, Tyre, Sidon, and Capernaum.

But one thing that you do have that is guaranteed is the true cause for any of your celebration or rejoicing. And that is your name being written in heaven. We are sent out because we know what Christ has done for us, who are sinners. We know of His death and resurrection, we know of the forgiveness He won for us on the cross and the victory over death through the tomb. Whether or not the world receives this message that we tell with open arms or hostility is irrelevant, because our names are in heaven. It makes perfect sense then for Christ to tell us to rejoice, just as He can tell us that we are forgiven our sins!

Knowing that this is where we are headed, we can go about our daily lives, whether they are met with success or failure, rejoicing - just as every American can celebrate that they are free. We are headed for Heaven, where our names are already written down. This does not depend upon the success or failure of our lives, or even our service in God's Kingdom. This depends solely upon God's grace and mercy that lasts forever and cannot be shaken. So, as we celebrate our nation's freedom this weekend, let all Christians, here and everywhere, and at all times celebrate and rejoice for our freedom that comes to us through Christ our Lord. Amen.

