



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

July 10, 2022 A.D. – 5th 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.

Introit

(From Psalm 136)

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

It is he who remembered us in our low estate,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

and rescued us from our foes,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

he who gives food to all flesh,

for his steadfast love endures forever.

Give thanks to the God of heaven,

for his steadfast love endures forever.

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 10:25-37)

²⁵Behold, a lawyer stood up to put [Jesus] to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" ²⁷And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."

²⁹But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³²So likewise a Levite,

when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' ³⁶Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" ³⁷He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

Sermon – ✠ ✠ (*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

Entrusting into God's Care

- LCMS Youth Gathering - 7/9-7/13
- Wayne Schilling - hospice care
- 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

- Patrick (friend of Mary Vezina) - cancer treatment
- Abi Clark - health issues
- 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

- Mitchell & Benjamin (relatives of Schoens & Smiths) - US Navy
- Harrison (son of Rob & Faye Sieck) - US Army

Collect of the Day

Lord Jesus Christ, in Your deep compassion You rescue us from whatever may hurt us. Teach us to love You above all things and to love our neighbors as ourselves; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Concluding Prayers

O God, You resist the proud and give grace to the humble. Grant us true humility after the likeness of Your only Son that we may never be arrogant and prideful and thus provoke Your wrath but in all lowliness be made partakers of the gifts of Your grace; 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.



The story of the Good Samaritan is as relevant today as it ever has been. Jesus tells it in response to some questions asked Him by an arrogant, self-righteous expert in the Old Testament Law. He asks Jesus a question he already knows the answer to, “What shall I do to inherit eternal life?” When Jesus asks the lawyer, or expert in the law, what he thinks, the lawyer responds: “Love God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind and your neighbor as yourself.”

The lawyer is probably a little bit surprised when Jesus tells him that he has answered correctly and now finds himself in a bit of a pickle. For the lawyer knows that he has not loved God with all of his strength and certainly not this neighbor as himself. And so as people who are looking for an argument often do when they are confronted with simple facts, the lawyer seeks to argue with Jesus over definitions. “Who is my neighbor?” he asks. And then Jesus tells him the parable of the Good Samaritan.

A man is lying half dead along the side of the road. A priest and Levite actually cross over to the other side of the road so that they don’t have to come near to him. The actions of this priest would be like a pastor today, on his way home from Sunday service after preaching a beautiful sermon on God’s love and mercy, stepping over some poor, wretched person dying in the street. And with the Levite, it’s as if the elders, or the church council, or the women’s guild and everyone who was in church today did the same thing as their hypocritical pastor. But Jesus tells the lawyer that it is a Samaritan who shows the half-dead man mercy.

Samaritans had at one time in the Old Testament been part of Israel. They were the Northern Kingdom of the Jewish people before Assyria invaded their land. When Assyria had conquered them in 722 B.C., some were led off into slavery while others remained in their homeland. With the population dispersed these Jews began to marry and start families with the people around them, bringing their false gods and religions into their homes. The result was that over time, these Jews became a whole new people, the Samaritans, despised by the Jews who had remained faithful over that time.

So in the lawyer’s eyes, the priest and the Levite of our story are heroes! They are the good people. The Samaritan on the other hand is the lowest of the low – a pagan traitor to God and His people. Yet hearing the story he must admit that it was the Samaritan who binds up the man’s wounds, places him on his animal, and pays for his care that proved to be a neighbor. And Jesus tells the lawyer to go and do likewise.

The lawyer must have been shocked and had his self-righteousness kicked right out of him as Jesus never answers his question, yet turns his world upside down. You see, Jesus did not want to show the lawyer that everyone should be his neighbor. If He wanted this Jesus would

have said that the injured man was Samaritan and the one who helped him was a noble Jewish person. But instead, Jesus says the Samaritan made the injured man his neighbor through his actions. Having argued with Jesus over definitions, the lawyer must now see that to ask, “Who should I love” or “Who is in and who is out of this group that I have to care for?” falls far short of God’s will for us. Instead, Jesus shows that the better question we must ask, the godly question we must ask is: “To whom can I become a neighbor?!” And the lawyer, who must have passed by countless people in need during his life, now realizes that inheriting eternal life by loving your neighbor is not so easy, and is actually impossible.

Jesus convicts this self-righteous lawyer’s conscience, and He should convict ours as well. For how many people have we passed by along the side of the road, or at school, or at work, or in our neighborhoods, or ever here in this congregation who are in need and we walk right by. And as we walk on by coming up with all kinds of excuses why we should not help, let me just say that God doesn’t care much for excuses. He doesn’t care if they don’t look like you! If they don’t talk like you! If they don’t word as hard as you! If they’re from around here or raised in the church! God demands we love them as ourselves! That we make them our neighbors, not drive them out of our sight! And we don’t, then were do we find ourselves in this parable? We are no the priest or the Levite that walks by on the other side of the road – that would be too good. Rather failing to love God and our neighbor we are the ones lying on the side of the road, beaten and stripped by our own sin, spiritually half-dead waiting for the vultures and the wild dogs to finish us off.

Every one of us fails to love, to forgive, to help and show compassion and mercy to others as the Law of God demands of us. And this sin condemns us, so that no one may be declared righteous by keeping the Law. Dr. Arthur Just from Ft. Wayne writes that the lawyer says, “I will act to love my neighbor as myself; tell me who he is.” But Jesus tells that lawyer and us today that we cannot act, for we are dead to sin. Rather we need someone to love us. We need someone to show us mercy, to heal us, pay for us, give us lodging and revive us. And this Good Samaritan for all who are dead to sin is the One telling the story today, Jesus Christ.

Like any Samaritan back in New Testament times, Jesus was and is still despised by the world, But He is the One who fulfills the Law, embodies its demands of compassion and mercy, and who brings God’s mercy to those of us who so desperately need it. This story does more than just tell us that we should love and have God’s compassion for all people. It shows us that Jesus has done exactly that or all of us, despite our failure to do the same.

And it is only when Christ lives in us, that we are picked up off of the ground, out of our sin and death, and leaving our forgiven failures and sins behind that we can go out and live mercifully and compassionately towards everyone we come across. We do this not motivated by the Law, but strengthened and equipped by God’s love through Jesus Christ our Good Samaritan.

Chances are we will never come across a man dying on the side of the road. But we need to keep our eyes open for people suffering and in need of love and compassion. And when we see them, may we never cross over to the other side of the road! But rather pray for God’s strength so that we may imitate Christ and become Good Samaritans ourselves. If there is any group of people in this area to whom people look to today and think of the Good Samaritan it should be those of us who have been forgiven our sin in Jesus’ name. Not because we are holier or smarter than anyone else. Nor because we fear God’s wrath if we don’t. But because we know what God has done for us through His Son Jesus Christ. He has healed the wounds of our sin and paid for our free lodging in Heaven with His own precious blood. And now as Jesus tells us and all His disciples, “You go, and do likewise.” Amen.