



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

July 17, 2022 A.D. - The 6th 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 119)

Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.
The LORD is my portion;
I promise to keep your words.
I entreat your favor with all my heart;
be gracious to me according to your promise.
When I think on my ways,
I turn my feet to your testimonies;
I hasten and do not delay
to keep your commandments.
The earth, O LORD, is full of your steadfast love;
teach me your statutes!

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 10:38-42

³⁸Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. ³⁹And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, ⁴²but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

Sermon – *(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

- Erin Wilson - recovered after injury
- Lynn Madsen - recovered after surgery
- Return from LCMS Youth Gathering

Entrusting into God's Care

- 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
- Joyce Fritz - recovering at home after surgery
- Angela Yuza - recovering after surgery
- Emily Kroemer - recovering after broken ankle
- John (friend of the Dunns) - chemo treatment
- Mike Raymon - back pain
- Doug Knutson - cancer treatment
- Lee Rathje - health issues
- Cindy Broadwater - relief of foot pain
- Dave Christian - recovering at home after cardiac surgery

Homebound

- Larry and Sharon Easler - Summit Pointe, Marion

Mourning, friends and family of

- Tami (friend of Becky Thur) - died 7/12
- John Siebenmann - died 7/10
- 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

Let us pray... O Lord, grant us the Spirit to hear Your Word and know the one thing needful that by Your Word and Spirit we may live according to Your will; 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.



In our text for today, Jesus goes into a village and to the house of Martha and Mary. What happens in these few short verses from Luke forces us to examine not only how we live our lives in treating our neighbors, but also how we as a church and as individuals welcome into our lives our Lord Jesus Christ.

We're probably familiar with the scene by now. Mary sat at our Lord's feet, listening to His teaching, while Martha was busy making preparations to serve the meal – no small feat if we are to understand that Jesus' disciples were with Him as well. I'm sure that most of us can relate to Martha's frustration of working hard to finish a task, while other's are seemingly just sitting around doing nothing. But Mary is doing anything but nothing. When Martha appeals to the highest authority, asking Jesus to tell Mary to "get to it" and help her, Jesus tells Martha that she is the one who needs to be straightened out. Now when we hear what Jesus says to Martha, we must not think that He is condoning procrastinators or those who may be less than motivated to work hard. Rather, we need to understand what Mary is doing to really understand why Jesus is not happy here with Martha.

Mary is showing Jesus true hospitality. Martha is well aware that the Son of Man has no place to lay His head and that He has been busy teaching, preaching, healing and so forth. So she believes the best thing she can do is to take care of Jesus. But Jesus did not come down from heaven as a man to be taken care of. The angels were doing that when He was still in heaven. Rather, Jesus came to serve. He came to teach. He came to suffer and die for the sins of the world. So to truly welcome Jesus, He is not looking for a great meal. He is looking for people to listen to His teaching – the Word of God. And while Martha was busy serving, Mary is sitting at the Lord’s feet. Mary is listening to Jesus teach. Thus Mary is hearing the Word that gives her eternal life. The Holy Spirit is working upon Mary to forgive her sins, and now ironically enough – strengthens her to do exactly what Martha wants to do but can’t – serve others with joy and in a way that is really helpful.

When Jesus comes into our lives, He comes to serve and to help us first, not so that we might help Him! Martha, is distracted, and therefore she is not giving effective service to the Lord. She is anxious and troubled about many things – many things that probably do not really matter to her guests, perhaps preparing an elaborate meal with many dishes, when only a few are needed. Thus, despite her great intentions to take care of Jesus, she is wasting her time, because she has lost perspective. Without the Word of God, her work is now neither pleasing to her, nor significant to God.

Today, this is a real danger for the Church, but also for us as individual Christians. In the busyness of our lives, it becomes so easy to focus on this or that task that is right in front us and lose sight of the one thing that is of eternal importance. That one thing is the Word of the Lord. We see people running all over creation in search of the many things in this life. Yet often, their attempts to enjoy the various novelties and luxuries in life are vain attempts to make up or hide the lack of the one thing which people really need...God’s Word. We are reminded of this when Jesus says in Matthew 4 that, “*man cannot live on bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God*” (Matthew 4:4).

And the Word of God that, comes to us today in the Bible, not only helps us in this life, but its’ power is felt in the next as well. When we die, those who have the Word of God that Jesus proclaims will have eternal life. When many stop following Jesus in the Gospel of John, Jesus asks the disciples if they will leave also. Peter replies, “*Lord to whom shall we go? You have the Words of eternal life!*” (John 6:68). And this Word, turns us away from trusting in ourselves for salvation, trusting in our own Martha-like good works, and turns us to the foot of the cross where we find the forgiveness and true life that Jesus wants all people to have through faith in Him.

As we run about the busy-ness of our lives with Martha, Jesus reminds us not to forget Mary’s example to pay attention to the one thing needful – the Word of

God. So we as disciples of Jesus keep coming to the services in the Lord's house, where He serves us through His Word and His sacraments. We go to Sunday School, Youth Group, Bible Studies, read or watch the sermon online – not so that we might serve Jesus, (these are not things that we do), but we go so that Christ might serve us there through His Word. The Word that tells us that we are forgiven when we lose our focus like Martha, or that we are forgiven any of our sins. This is the Word that is the one thing needful in all of our lives. Amen.

