



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

July 31, 2022 A.D.

8th 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 49)

Hear this, all peoples!
Give ear, all inhabitants of the world,
both low and high,
rich and poor together!

Truly no man can ransom another,
or give to God the price of his life,
for the ransom of their life is costly
and can never suffice.

This is the path of those who have foolish confidence;
yet after them people approve of their boasts.

Like sheep they are appointed for Sheol;
death shall be their shepherd.

But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol,
for he will receive me.

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

(Colossians 3:1-11)

¹If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

Sermon – † *Hearts and Minds* † (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

- Cherie Miller - recovering from injury

Entrusting into God's Care

- Those in an accident during the return trip from Houston
- 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

- Derek (son of Hackbardts) - health issues
- Faye Sieck - relief from pain
- Elaine Cook - health issues
- Abi Clark - health issues
- Norm Rutz - cancer treatment
- Joyce Fritz - recovering at home after surgery
- Angela Yuza - recovering after surgery
- Emily Kroemer - recovering after broken ankle
- Doug Knutson - cancer treatment
- Lee Rathje - health issues
- Cindy Broadwater - relief of foot pain
- Dave Christian - recovering at home after cardiac surgery

Homebound

- Wayne Schilling - Linn Manor Care, Marion

Mourning, friends and family of

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

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 wisdom to recognize the treasures You have stored up for us in heaven, that we may never despair but always rejoice and be thankful for the riches of Your grace; 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.



✠ *Hearts and Minds* ✠

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

Where is your heart today? Where is your mind? If you are tempted to answer that they are in your chest and or in your head, than you're missing the point of these questions! When we ask, "Where is your heart; where is your mind?" – we are really asking you about the desires and the thoughts in your life.

Regardless of how you answer these questions, God tells us where our hearts and minds *should be* when St. Paul writes his letter, or epistle, to the Colossians. Paul did not know the Colossian Christians, he never visited the city of Colossae (kə-los-i). He never called them on the phone to see what was going on; never looked at their church's website. In fact, when he wanted the Gospel of Christ to be preached in that city, he sent Epaphras, a convert and a friend of his to go and do the work. It appears that Epaphras was the right man for the job, as the church grew quickly in Colossae, as many came to know Christ as their Lord and Savior.

But news reached Paul, probably while he was in prison, that false teachings had begun to spring up amongst the Colossians. We don't really know what these false teachings were exactly, as Paul doesn't say what they were, most likely because the Colossians already knew them. But it is worth noting that though he didn't know these people, and though he would probably never meet these people on this side of heaven, and though he had nothing to personally gain from setting them back on God's path, Paul wrote to them, to gently restore them; to gently build their faith back up so that they may have the glory and joy that God wants to give them and all of us through His Son Jesus.

Paul doesn't say that the false teachings that rose up amongst them were their problem! He gets involved with them, even when he's in prison and has his own cares and concerns. St. Paul knows that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord is united as one body with Christ as the head, and what is good for one Christian is good for all, just as what is bad for one is bad for all. Paul, through his actions, says that he is his brothers' keeper. And so in his chains Paul puts the pen in his hand to the paper and writes: "*If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth*" (Colossians 3:1-2).

Where is your heart? Where is your mind? If your heart and mind are not with Christ, are they using your neighbor to your own advantage instead of helping him or her? Is your mind telling you that you would really like to help out, but that you don't have the time and someone else will take care of it? Is your heart more into feeding your body at breakfast than it is into feeding your soul with God's Word? Set your hearts and your minds on things above, Paul urges.

Kill the earthly things that promise pleasure but on bring God's wrath. Get rid of the anger in your life that murders those around you. Stop the foul language from your lips that brings dishonor to God and tears others down. Do these things - not so that you'll become someone different or someone better, but because you are someone different. You are someone who is better than what you used to be before Christ had called you to Himself.

Again Paul writes, "*If then, (or since), you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is...*" "*Set your minds on things that are above...for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*" "*...you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, what is earthly in you...*" (Colossians 3:1-5) The words "If", "For", and "Therefore" may seem like insignificant words in Paul's letter, but here they mean everything. Paul doesn't say, "**In order** to be raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above". He says, "**IF** you have been raised with Christ!" – implying that they have been. He doesn't write, "Set your minds **so that** you'll have life." It's, "Set your minds **FOR** you have it!" You have it right now.

It may not feel like you have life now. It may not seem like you have died with Christ, or that you have been raised with Him. But feelings can be misleading, and get us to do all sorts of things that we shouldn't, including doubting that sure and certain work of God through Christ Jesus. This is why God doesn't leave our salvation or His love in the care of just feelings. He uses things that we can feel, that we can touch, taste, smell and hear. He uses the Word and the Sacraments. And it was specifically at your baptism when you died with Christ and were separated from your earthly nature. And at your baptism you were raised with Christ in His resurrection to all the glory that belongs to Him as the Son of God. Of course, it's not perfect yet, and this is why God gives to us the book, made of simple paper and ink and written in human language, that we call the Bible, that is the very Word of God. That is why He invites us to Himself in the sacramental meal of Holy Communion, where Christ gives us His very body and blood to forgive our sins and strengthen our faith. Whenever we feel as if we are still part of that earthly nature, whenever we want to go back to our earthly ways, we don't try harder to keep God's Laws. St. Paul does not remind the Colossians of the Ten Commandments while they face the dangers of false teaching. He reminds them of Christ their savior and what He has done. We remember the work and the power of God that is Christ crucified and risen from the dead!

We remember the water that was poured over us, as we received the sign of the cross upon our hearts and our heads to mark as ones redeemed by God. We eat and drink the bread and the wine to strengthen our faith, as we remember the night Jesus was betrayed and crucified so that we may be reunited with God and have eternal life; So that we could be new creations, redeemed sinners, saints of God who set their hearts and minds not on the things of this world, but on the things of God. We remember God's Word that shows us our sin, and then shows Him on the cross dying for us. We remember God's work, we remember His love, for it is only by the power of Christ that we can get our lives up out of the gutter, stop living as ones who are of this world, and set our hearts and our minds on the things above.

Jesus tells us in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke that "*where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*" Our baptismal faith assures us that our treasure is in heaven above with Christ Himself. Though it may be hidden for a little while now, we are assured that when Christ returns in all of His splendor, our glory will shine as bright as His. While we wait for that glorious day however, set your hearts and minds on things above, "for" you are already a new creation by the power and grace of Christ Jesus. Amen.