



# Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

**August 21, 2022**

**The 11<sup>th</sup> 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 96 and 117)*

**P** Splendor and majesty are before him;

**C** **we will bless the LORD from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD!**

Praise the LORD, all nations!

**Extol him, all peoples!**

For great is his steadfast love toward us,

**and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!**

*For those with access to the internet, you may now play today's worship video, located on Bethany's website ([www.bethanycr.org](http://www.bethanycr.org)) under the Worship Resources tab and then continue with the Nicene Creed. Everyone else may continue the service as printed....*

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## **Scripture Lesson**

*(Luke 13:22-30)*

<sup>22</sup>[Jesus] went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. <sup>23</sup>And someone said to him, "Lord, will those who are saved be few?" And he said to them, <sup>24</sup>"Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. <sup>25</sup>When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us,' then he will answer you, 'I do not know where you come from.' <sup>26</sup>Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.' <sup>27</sup>But he will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!' <sup>28</sup>In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. <sup>29</sup>And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. <sup>30</sup>And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

**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**

### **Entrusting into God's Care**

- Maureen (aunt of Janet Hoech) - 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**

- Lorna Fischer - surgery on 8/25
- Stephen Stepanek - health issues
- Harold Schoen - recovering after surgery
- Betty Hein - recovering after surgery
- Natalie Heller - recovering after surgery
- Wade Ramsey - back pain
- Derek (son of Hackbardts) - recovering after surgery
- 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 surgery

### **Homebound**

- Del Block - The Gardens

### **Mourning, friends and family of**

- Lana (sister of Karen Hass) - died 7/17
- 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

O Lord, You have called us to enter Your kingdom through the narrow door. Guide us by Your Word and Spirit, and lead us now and always into the feast of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Concluding Prayers

O God, merciful Father, without Your care and preservation all things wither and die. Open the windows of heaven and send bountiful rain on all in need 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.**



✠ *The Narrow Door* ✠

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

If you have ever been “locked out” before, you know what a terrible feeling it can be. At our house in Pennsylvania, the garbage would get picked up Monday mornings. A few years ago I woke up on a cold Monday morning in the middle of winter realizing that the garbage was not out yet. So, in a panic, I rushed through the house emptying out waste baskets, then ran out of the house with the bag of garbage in my hand and wearing nothing more than a pair of running shorts and slippers. Now, the street wasn’t far from the front door, so as I burst out of the front door the air was cold, but I knew I’d only be outside for a few seconds. Or so I thought. After getting the garbage bag to the curb, I ran back to the front porch. Now I had left the main door just slightly cracked to keep the heat in the house, but when I pulled open the storm door, just enough suction was created to pull the front door shut. And in one terrible second, I knew I was in trouble. I pulled and pushed on the front door. It was completely locked. I ran around to the other doors in the house – they were all locked. I looked at all the windows, hoping by some small chance my wife decided to open one during the one of the coldest nights of the year. She did not. And so there I was in my shorts and slippers, with snow around my ankles, completely locked out of my own home.

If you have ever been locked out of your car, or your home, or anywhere that you needed to get into, you know what bad feeling it can be. You might try to open the door a few more times, maybe try pulling a little harder. You might try to find a hidden key, or some other way in. Or if you are like me you grab an axe from the woodpile, check to make sure no police cars are driving by, and smash a window that you'll end up having to fix later on. But if you are truly locked out, there is not much you can do.

Such is the situation that Jesus describes to the one who asks, "*Lord, will those who are saved be few?*" While it is an interesting question, Jesus does not let someone examine others without first taking a good look at themselves. And so instead of giving a number, Jesus in essence says, "You worry about yourself. You strive to enter through the narrow door."

Our Lord tells us that many will try to enter the narrow door of salvation and will not be able. They will be locked out of the kingdom. Of course the tendency for us when we ponder the question of who will be saved is to think of other people. But when we pause for a moment, this exact question forces us to ask ourselves, "Am I one of the many or one of the few? Will I be on the outside looking in? Will I be outside where one will only hear the crying and the gnashing of teeth, or inside the great banquet where there will be joy and feasting?" Jesus will not let us examine others without first looking at the person in the mirror. And regardless of the answer that we come up with, another question that follows is, "How do I get through that narrow door?"

Jesus says, "Make every effort." He says struggle to get through this narrow door of salvation. It should be obvious that this is not an easy way to go. Not every one can just walk right through. This is a narrow door, not a wide street. There are wide streets out there. There are those streets where the Lord ate and drank and taught the people. Anyone could know of Jesus, talk to Jesus, eat and drink with Him. But many of these people on this wide street will not be able to go through the narrow door. Likewise today, there are many people who know of Jesus. They have been baptized, they have been to Sunday School, they have even been to Bible studies and to worship and they try to live life to be their best selves. But just because they have been on this wide street that so many people walk down, does not mean that they will enter through the narrow door.

It is terrible, that to those who simply trust in their knowledge of Jesus, to those who insist that they are perfect, or to those who think that they should just try their best, Christ will say, "*I do not know where you are come from.*" Often when you meet someone, one of the first things you might ask them is where are your from. It's basic knowledge, yet without faith in Him, Christ will say He doesn't even know this simple fact about you.

So how on earth do we get through this narrow door? How do we keep ourselves from being locked out. First, let me say that only sinners can go through that narrow door. Being that we all are sinners I should clarify that only those who recognize and confess their sins can go through that door. *The struggle to get through that door is the struggle of repentance, which is the work of God on your heart.* This struggle happens when the Word of God calls us to repent, which is not just a call to be sorry or to live better, but really a call to trust Jesus Christ alone as our Savior. True repentance is not just being sorry for our sins. The jail is full of people who are sorry for their sins – it's what Luther called the "Repentance of the Gallows". But the true repentance that God calls us to is also to believe that Christ died on the cross for those sins. True repentance brings us to the baptismal font where God washes away our sins. It opens our mouths to take the body and blood shed not only for the person next to you, but for you.

Will there be only a few. Absolutely! But you need not worry or struggle with your own efforts because you can trust in Jesus Christ. If you don't believe me, look in Acts 2:37-39. "*Now*

*when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”<sup>38</sup> And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.<sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”*

The door of salvation is indeed narrow, but it is open nevertheless through the work of Jesus Christ. Because it is open you may enter it through His works. Praise God that you do not have to rely on yourself. You don't, nor people from the north, south, east, and west. The door is open for everyone who repents and believes in Christ as their savior. It sounds so easy, yet we know it is a struggle. Therefore keep struggling, for our Maker and Redeemer does not want you to be locked outside in the cold with the weeping and gnashing your teeth. But rather He has been crucified so that you may enter into the great feast of eternal life with Him. Amen.

