



# Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

September 4, 2022 A.D.

The 13<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 119*

Make me understand the way of your precepts,  
**and I will meditate on your wondrous works.**

My soul melts away for sorrow;

**strengthen me according to your word!**

Put false ways far from me

**and graciously teach me your law!**

I have chosen the way of faithfulness;

**I set your just decrees before me.**

I cling to your testimonies, O LORD;

**let me not be put to shame!**

I will run in the way of your commandments

**when you enlarge my heart!**

*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 14:25-35)*

<sup>25</sup>Now great crowds accompanied [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup>“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup>For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, <sup>30</sup>saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ <sup>31</sup>Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him

who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

<sup>34</sup>“Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? <sup>35</sup>It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

**Sermon** † *Forget the Silverware* † (A copy is included at the end of this service.)

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### **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**

- Baptism of Charlotte (daughter of Brad and Erin Crawford)
- Wade Ramsey - back pain improved
- Natalie Heller - recovered after surgery

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

- Stephen Stepanek - recovering after surgery
- Rhonda (friend of Larsons) - health issues
- Fran (friend of Larsons) - cancer treatments
- Betty Hein - recovering at Terrace Glen, Marion
- Lorna Fischer - recovering after surgery
- Donna Birkicht - recovering after surgery
- Harold Schoen - recovering after surgery
- Faye Sieck - relief from pain
- Abi Clark - health issues
- Norm Rutz - cancer treatment
- Joyce Fritz - recovering at home after surgery
- Angela Yuza - recovering after surgery
- Doug Knutson - cancer treatment
- Lee Rathje - health issues
- Cindy Broadwater - relief of foot pain
- Dave Christian - recovering at home after surgery

#### **Homebound**

- Larry & Sharon Easler - Summit Pointe, Marion

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

- Maureen (aunt of Janet Hoech) - died 8/25
- Sandra (mother of Ryan Urban) - died 8/23
- Darlene (mother of Sue Kroemer) - died 8/22
- Lana (sister of Karen Hass) - died 8/17

### **Serving Our Country**

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

### **Collect of the Day**

O merciful Lord, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all. Grant us courage and strength to take up the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **Concluding Prayers**

Almighty and most merciful God, in this earthly live we endure sufferings and death before we enter into eternal glory. Grant us grace at all times to subject ourselves to Your holy will and to continue steadfast in the true faith to the end of our lives that we may know the peace and joy of the blessed hope of the resurrection of the dead and of the glory of the world to come; 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.**



✠ *Forget the Silverware* ✠

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

Many Christians today seem to have a misunderstanding of what it means to be a Christian. Perhaps this is understandable in our current environment that sees Christianity losing its place of privilege in society and therefore many churches struggling. In order to grow their numbers or even just to keep their doors open, churches may bend to the will of an immoral culture or focus on just giving the people what they want – what they want to have, what they want to hear, - what they want to feel. The result is that the Church and the Christian's relationship with God centers

around them, the follower or the disciple, and not Jesus Christ! It's almost as if the disciples are telling the Lord what type of God He should be.

But in our reading from Luke, Jesus knows what kind of God He is, so He tells this large crowd that is following Him what it means to be His disciple. Jesus says in verse 26 of our text, *"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, even his own life, he cannot be my disciple"*. When Jesus uses the word "hate" here, He is not saying that we must despise or detest our family. Rather this is a rather strong way in the Hebrew language to say that one cannot love our family or even our lives *more* than we love Jesus and His kingdom. If one sees their family as the most important thing in life, then how can one "fear, love, and trust in God above all things"? But the good news for the families of Jesus' disciples is that one who follows Jesus will truly love and care for them in ways they and the world cannot even comprehend.

The second teaching Jesus gives the those who want to follow Him is about bearing their cross. The people hearing Jesus had heard the Word of God, they may have left their families, and somewhat understood the cost of discipleship. But as they traveled with Jesus to Jerusalem they begin to encounter the resistance and persecution that Jesus would fully experience Himself in the Holy City. So, Jesus tells them that just as He must go to the cross, they will have to bear their own cross as well. They will have to suffer because they are His followers. He is telling them that there is a cost to being His disciple that if you are not willing to pay, you'll end up apart from Christ and outside of the kingdom.

According to Annie Dillard, in 1845 Sir John Franklin and 138 other men and officers departed from England on an expedition to find the Northwest Passage high up in the Canadian Arctic. They sailed in two ships, with each vessel carrying an auxiliary steam engine and a twelve-day supply of coal for the entire two or three years' voyage. Instead of additional coal, each ship made room for a large library, "a hand-organ, playing fifty tunes," china place settings for officers and men, cut-glass wine goblets, and sterling silver flatware. The officers' sterling silver knives, forks and spoons were particularly interesting. The silver was of ornate Victorian design, very heavy at the handles and richly patterned. Engraved on the handles were the individual officers' initials and their family crests. The expedition carried no special clothing for the Arctic, only the uniforms of Her Majesty's Navy.

Two months after the expedition left, a British whaling captain met the two ships in Lancaster Sound and he reported back to England on the high spirits of officers and men. He was the last European to see any of them alive.

Years later, Europe learned that many groups of Inuit—the indigenous people of the land—had come across various still-living or dead members of the Franklin expedition. Some had glimpsed, for instance, men pushing and pulling a wooden boat across the ice. Some had found, at a place called Starvation Cove, the remains of the thirty-five men who had been dragging such a boat. At Terror Bay the Inuit found a tent on the ice, and in it, thirty bodies.

For twenty years, search parties recovered skeletons from all over the frozen sea. . . . Accompanying one clump of frozen bodies . . . were place settings of the sterling silver flatware. Another search party found two skeletons in a boat on a sledge. They had hauled the boat sixty-five miles across the ice. With the two skeletons were some chocolate, some guns, some tea, and a great deal of silverware. That was the Franklin expedition.

Sir John Franklin and 138 men perished because they underestimated the requirements of Arctic exploration. They ignorantly imagined a pleasure cruise amid the comforts of their English officers' clubs. They exchanged necessities for luxuries, and their ignorance led to their deaths.

Jesus knows what kind of God He is. And in our text, He was set on going to Jerusalem, where He was determined to die for our sins. And He knew that a rough voyage lay ahead for Him and His followers.

So, Jesus gives us all a reality check as he laid out in unforgettable terms the cost of being a disciple. Jesus did for His followers what Sir John Franklin failed to do for his. He told them, and He tells us today, to leave the silverware at home, so to speak, and put your faith and trust in God first, even above your own life. And do not be surprised when you are persecuted or suffer for your faith.

These are not popular messages in the church today. Many will tell us that we can follow Christ and have our silverware too! But Jesus tells us the cost of following Him. These are not small costs, but the benefits of forgiveness and eternal life in His Kingdom far outweigh them all.

So, put God first in your life, because He gave up His for you! Take up your cross because He died on His. Continue to be His disciple, and follow Him in His Kingdom. Amen.

