



# Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

**September 11, 2022 A.D. 14<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 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 30)*

You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;  
**O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever!**

O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,  
**and you have healed me.**

O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol;  
**you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.**

Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints,  
**and give thanks to his holy name.**

For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime.  
**Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.**

*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 Apostles' Creed. Everyone else may continue the service as printed....*

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## **Scripture Lesson**

*(Luke 15:1-10)*

<sup>1</sup>Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup>"What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? <sup>5</sup>And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. <sup>6</sup>And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' <sup>7</sup>Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

<sup>8</sup>“Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? <sup>9</sup>And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ <sup>10</sup>Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

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

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### **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**

- Sunday School teacher installation and start of Sunday school

#### **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**

- Chuck (father of Jim Novitch) - hospitalization
- Sylvia (aunt of Patricia Hendrick) - health issues
- 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**

- Darlene Eckert - at home

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

- Dick (friend of Linda Patten) - died 9/5
- Andy (brother of Jeff Crow) - died 9/3
- Bill (father of Patrick, Justin and Lucas McCarley) - died 9/3
- Maureen (aunt of Janet Hoech) - died 8/25
- Sandra (mother of Ryan Urban) - died 8/23

### **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...Lord Jesus, You are the Good Shepherd, without whom nothing is secure. Rescue and preserve us that we may not be lost forever but follow You, rejoicing in the way that leads to eternal life; for You live and reign with the Father 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.**



✠ *Rejoicing* ✠

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

Very often when the laundry is done in our house it seems as if the socks like to disappear. In fact, we have a whole drawer in a dresser that is dedicated just to socks without a partner. Which, while our socks are not worth all that much, is frustrating to lose them none the less.

I suspect that some of you have at one time or another shared the same frustration of losing a sock, or maybe something even more valuable. Imagine losing \$50 or \$100. Imagine losing your family pet. Compared to socks these things are worth a lot more, and therefore should we lose them, it's even worse. But now think about your brother, or your sister. If not your biological brothers and or sisters than those in your extended family of humanity. How much is a person worth? More than \$100. More than a dog? More than a pair of socks? If so, than how do we feel when there are millions, if not billions of people who are lost and will be lost forever? How do we feel about the lost who do not repent of their sins; do not ask for forgiveness on behalf of Jesus Christ's sacrificial life and death? How do we feel about those who will not know God's love, but God's wrath?

We know what the religious leaders, the Pharisees, feel towards the lost in our Scripture lesson. They grumbled that Jesus welcomed sinners and tax collectors.

This of course was not the first time that the Pharisees grumbled against Jesus in Luke's Gospel. They complained when Jesus ate at the homes of a tax collectors, like Matthew and Zacchaeus. They grumbled when Jesus allowed a woman to wash His feet with an expensive perfume and dry them with her hair. Leon Morris, a biblical scholar, correctly says that this so upsetting to the Pharisees because eating and drinking with these people was worse than mere association, it implied welcome and recognizing them as people who have value.

To all of this criticism and grumbling, Jesus has a response. At Matthew's house Jesus replied, "*Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.* <sup>32</sup> *I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance*" (Luke 5:31-32). At Zacchaeus' home Jesus says, "... *the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost*" (Luke 19:10). With His feet having been anointed with perfume Jesus tells the parable of a man forgiving the debts of two people – one owing a small amount, another a huge amount. Jesus asks, "*Now which of them will love him more*" (Luke 7:42). The Pharisee correctly answers the one that was forgiven more. Jesus then forgives the sinful woman who washed His feet.

You see, unlike His opponents, and sometimes even ourselves, who rejoice when enemies are destroyed, Jesus rejoices when enemies repent; when they stop being enemies and are made allies. Paul writes in I Timothy that we should pray for kings and those in authority. He goes on to say, "*This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth*" (I Timothy 2:3-4).

So instead of grumbling when Jesus welcomes sinners, we join the angels and rejoice that God has had mercy. We are invited to rejoice because the lost sheep has been found. We are invited to rejoice because the coin has been found. "*Rejoice with me*" comes the invitation from Heaven because what has been lost, now has been found.

Now there may be some of you saying that you are having a hard time rejoicing because so often those sheep and coins don't seem to be found. In fact, it seems that more and more are getting lost each day. After all, how many of us have a family member, a friend, a co-worker who seems to be lost right now? How many coins do you know who were lost and now have been found? How many sheep do you know who have strayed and have had the shepherd leave 99 others to go find them? Well, if I look into a mirror I see one. When I look at you, my brother or sister in Christ, I see another. For each one of us, each believer, is a story of one lost and found by our Good Shepherd Jesus Christ. There was a time when heaven rejoiced because you were baptized as an infant or as an adult. Or perhaps Heaven rejoiced when you first trusted Jesus to forgive you your sins. Regardless of when or how, if you have even just the smallest spark of faith in your heart that Jesus loves

you, died for you, and therefore forgives you, you can say that out of God's mercy you have been found.

And this mercy of God is completely free. It does not depend on you or what you do or what you think you will do. Neither the sheep nor the coin did anything to be found, and neither did you. It is God who seeks the lost. He hunts them down, for left to ourselves and our sin we run away from God, we don't want anything to do with Him. But God has brought us back from our sin. So, if you think that Christianity is about working hard to save yourself, notice that Jesus didn't say, "There is more joy in heaven when a new worker is hired by the company." He says there is joy when one sinner repents – that is when one is truly sorry for their sin and seeks forgiveness through Christ.

Therefore, we do not delight that any sinner gets what he or she deserves. Rather we pray for them and rejoice then they are found, because we too have been found out of God's mercy. And having this mercy, we must not hoard it ourselves, but share it with the world and in doing so allow God to use ourselves to find other sheep and coins. God uses this church, His Word that is taught and preached here, the waters of Baptism and the body and blood of His Son that are administered here to find lost sheep and coins. But He can also use you. You don't even have to join a board or come to a meeting at church. It can be as simple as telling a person that God loves them because Jesus died for their sins. And just like that, God is using you to find lost sheep by sharing His love.

This is a lost sheep or a coin that is precious in God's eyes. We are loved by God more than we can imagine and we know this because, despite of our sin, God doesn't want any of us to be lost. We are reminded of this every time we see a cross. For Jesus died for us so that we, and all people, may be found. Amen.

And now may the peace of God that surpasses all understanding keep your hearts and minds forever in Christ Jesus. Amen.

