



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

September 25, 2022 A.D. 16th 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 119)

Let your steadfast love comfort me
according to your promise to your servant.
Your hands have made and fashioned me;
give me understanding that I may learn your commandments.
Those who fear you shall see me and rejoice,
because I have hoped in your word.
I know, O LORD, that your just decrees are righteous,
and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me.
Let your mercy come to me, that I may live;
for your law is my delight.

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

(Luke 16:19–31)

¹⁹[Jesus said:] “There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. ²²The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried, ²³and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. ²⁴And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’ ²⁵But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in

anguish. ²⁶And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ ²⁷And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house— ²⁸for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ ²⁹But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ ³⁰And he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ ³¹He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’”

Sermon – † *Warmth of the Word* † (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

- Milestones Blessing - 3rd/4th Grade Bibles
- Missy Gingrich’s time on staff at Bethany

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

- Michele (sister of Melissa Loney) - terminal breast cancer
- Trevor (son of Mike & Dawn) - hospitalization
- Kate (friend of Kroemers) - life issues
- Shauna (relative of Schmiths) - recovering after surgery
- Donna Birkicht - recovering after hospitalization
- Chuck (father of Jim Novitch) - hospitalization
- Sylvia (aunt of Patricia Hinrichs) - health issues
- Stephen Stepanek - brain cancer treatment
- Rhonda (friend of Larsons) - health issues
- Fran (friend of Larsons) - cancer treatments
- Betty Hein - recovering at home
- Lorna Fischer - 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

Homebound

- Melba Davison - Terrace Glen, Marion

Mourning, friends and family of

- Deb (friend of Hedtkes) - died 9/6
- Josh (friend of Hedtkes) - died 9/5
- 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

Serving Our Country

- Mitchell & Benjamin (relatives of Schoens & Smiths) - US Navy
- Harrison (son of Siecks) - US Army, deplored to Romania

Collect of the Day

Let us pray... O God, You are the strength of all who trust in You, and without Your aid we can do no good thing. Grant us the help of Your grace that we may please You in both will and deed; 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.



✠ *Warmth of the Word* ✠

Grace, Mercy, and Peace to you from God the Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
Amen.

As the warmth of summer fades away and the coolness of Fall becomes more common, we are reminded that winter is just around the corner. And with winter comes the inevitable hardening of the ground, that makes gardening or farming for that matter almost impossible. In fact in winter time, many carefully manicured lawns and flowerbeds, here at the church or at our homes, can become hard as rock. And there are two reasons for this. First, is as the air gets colder, so does the ground. But also the sun's rays, that can soften and warm the ground, become less direct and less powerful in the winter time. Like the sun does to the ground in summer, in our Scripture reading for today, we hear Jesus telling us of a rich man who never allowed the warm rays of God's Word to warm his cold, hard heart.

The story Jesus tells is a familiar one. During his earthly life Lazarus was a poor beggar, starving and covered with sores that the dogs would lick. But now he finds himself comforted by Abraham's side in heaven. In contrast the man who used to wear fine clothes and live in luxury finds himself in Hell where he longs for drip of water to cool his burning thirst. It seems that a Great Reversal has taken place. Jesus talks about this earlier in the Gospel of Luke during the Sermon on the plain. When you hear this story of Lazarus and the rich man you have to think back to when Jesus says,

"Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh." And just a few verses later, "But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort" (Luke 6:21, 24).

If you are like me, you want to be where Lazarus is, and not the rich man. And so, you ask yourself, how did this great reversal take place?

1. **We might say that was because they were rich or poor.**
 - But not all of the poor will be in heaven, and Abraham himself was a wealthy man. (Gen 13 – Livestock, silver, and gold)
2. **We might say that it was because of how they lived their lives. (This is quite a common mistake that we make today.)**
 - The rich man does seem to be a scoundrel. He never helps Lazarus. And even when he is Hell, he thinks only of himself.
 - But we really find no redeeming qualities in Lazarus that would earn him the great honor that he receives.
 - And of course the rest of Scripture testifies is clear that those who wish to be judged by their works, will be condemned by them.
 - Romans 3:20 – *“Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.”*
3. **We might say these two men end up where they are because that is where God wanted them to be there. He does want Lazarus in Heaven, but He does not want the rich man in Hell.**
 - *The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.* - II Peter 3

So then, how does this great reversal take place? How did the rich man and Lazarus end up in Hell and Heaven respectively? And what is Jesus trying to tell us here today so that we may be with Him in heaven and not separated from God in Hell?

After Abraham tells of the great chasm between Heaven and Hell that no one can cross, the rich man seems to have a change of heart. He finally thinks of someone besides himself. Again he wants Abraham to send Lazarus out of heaven, but this time to his brothers. The rich man believes that if someone from the dead appears to his brothers, they may be able to avoid the terrible place he is in. To this, Abraham simply responds, *“They have Moses and the Prophets, let your brother hear them.”*

Jesus says Lazarus doesn’t have to go to the rich man’s brothers because they have the Bible. And just as the sun’s warm summer rays can defrost a cold frozen ground, so too does the Word of God thaw cold hearts that have been frozen with sin. For the Bible is what God uses to bring us from the path that only leads to death into eternal life. The Bible, along with the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, which our Lutheran forefathers called the “visible word” [Apology XIII.5], are God’s Means of Grace. The Word and Sacraments are the things that God uses to give to us the Grace that Jesus won for us through His death and resurrection.

This is how God saves us from our sin. St. Paul writes in Ephesians, “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.” This gift of faith comes through God’s Word that not only tells us the need for our Savior, but shows our Savior to us.. For in all of the Scriptures we find the Gospel, the Good News, of Christ. Jesus’ own disciples did not realize this until He explained it to them the day He rose from the dead. That first Easter as two of the disciples walked to Emmaus, Jesus approached them and Luke writes,

“He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.” – Luke 24

There used to be a time when words were relatively rare. You basically heard the people that were around you. But with the invention of the printing press, the radio and television, and now the internet, words are all around us. There are words of so called experts telling us that we should vote for this or that person, or hold certain positions on certain topics. There are the words of advertisers telling us that no matter how much stuff we have, that we need more to be happy, healthy, or even safe. There are the words of this world that tell us to give into the pleasures of the flesh and the selfishness of the mind, no matter what the cost to ourselves, to others, or to our society. All of these “words” are around us, and we all listen to them to some extent, and many of them are cold words that harden our hearts and lead us into sin. But do we listen to the Word that matters most? Do we listen to the Word that tells us of the one who died and rose again? The Word that gives eternal life?

And if we do, when do we listen to God’s Word? If it is only for a few hours or so on Sunday morning, that is a short summer time for the rays of the this Word to warm our cold sinful hearts. Especially when we think of how long we listen to all the other things out there the other six and half days a week. Therefore, knowing what God has done for you. Knowing His great love for you that drove him to the cross, let God’s Word warm your hearts, not just here at church on Sunday, but in your homes and at your school, and where you work. The Word and Sacraments are not just Sunday morning things, but everyday eternal things. Read the Word. Remember you are baptized in the name of God. Remember Christ’s Body and Blood given to you everyday. These are the means that God uses to give to you forgiveness and life, the most precious gift that He longs for you to have. Amen.

