



# Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

**October 2, 2022 A.D.**

**LWML Sunday**

*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*

I hope for your salvation, O LORD,  
**and I do your commandments.**

I rejoice at your word  
**like one who finds great spoil.**

Seven times a day I praise you  
**for your just and righteous decrees.**

Great peace have those who love your law;  
**nothing can make them stumble.**

My soul keeps your testimonies;  
**I love them exceedingly.**

*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 17:1-10*)

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus] said to his disciples, "Temptations to sin are sure to come, but woe to the one through whom they come! <sup>2</sup>It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were cast into the sea than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin. <sup>3</sup>Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, <sup>4</sup>and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him."

<sup>5</sup>The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" <sup>6</sup>And the Lord said, "If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."

<sup>7</sup>“Will any one of you who has a servant plowing or keeping sheep say to him when he has come in from the field, ‘Come at once and recline at table’? <sup>8</sup>Will he not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me, and dress properly, and serve me while I eat and drink, and afterward you will eat and drink’? <sup>9</sup>Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? <sup>10</sup>So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.’”

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

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### **The Lutheran Women’s Missionary League Pledge**

**In fervent gratitude for the Savior’s dying love and His blood-bought gift of redemption we dedicate ourselves to Him with all that we are and have; and in obedience to His call for workers in the harvest fields, we pledge Him our willing service wherever and whenever He has need of us. We consecrate to our Savior our hands to work for Him, our feet to go on His errands, our voice to sing His praises, our lips to proclaim His redeeming love, our silver and our gold to extend His Kingdom, our will to do His will, and every power of our life, to the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him.**  
**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**

- Beckham (infant of Tyler and Kaylee Hedtke) - baptism today
- LWML Sunday
- Lorna Fischer - recovering 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**

- Dave Dohrmann - upcoming surgery 10/4
- Sam (friend of Carol Grimminger) - cancer treatment
- Stephen Stepanek - brain cancer treatment
- Betty Hein - recovering at home
- 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**

- Shirley Kellogg - at home

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

- June (friend of Heitlands) - died 9/26
- 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, deployed to Poland
- Jordan (grandson of Kim Neuhaus) - National Guard

### **Collect of the Day**

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, by Your grace hear the prayers of Your Church. Grant that those things which we ask in faith we may receive through Your bountiful mercy; 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

Almighty and everlasting God, through Your Son You have promised us forgiveness of sins and everlasting life. Govern our hearts by Your Holy Spirit that in our daily need, and especially in times of temptation, we may seek Your help and, by a true and lively faith in Your Word, obtain all that You have promised; through the same 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.**



✠ *Traps* ✠

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

As we begin looking at our text today from Luke 17, we must remember that earlier in Luke's Gospel the apostles had been doing some pretty amazing things. For instance, in Luke 9:1-2 we read, "*And [Jesus] called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, <sup>2</sup> and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal.*" And that is exactly what they did. But then, when the same apostles heard what Jesus was telling them in our text today, something happened. When Jesus spoke to them in chapter 17, we read in v.5 that they cried out, "Increase our faith!" Apparently, if the apostles were to go out and face COVID or cancer, if they had to deal with Satan's demons, - all of that was no problem. But when they are asked to do what Jesus commands in our text today, they know that they're going to need all of the help that they can get.

Jesus begins by telling the disciples, "*Temptations to sin are sure to come, but woe to the one through whom they come*" (17:1)! This is a warning to all of Jesus' followers. But unfortunately, the seriousness of this warning may be missed by some. What Jesus says in the Greek are that *skandala* are sure to come. Now *skandala* are really more than just a thing or two that might tempt us to do something that we shouldn't. *Skandala* are more than just things that cause us to sin. Because to be honest, I'm not sure that those things really merit the kind of extreme warning that Jesus gives us here. Rather, *skandala* in the Greek literally means "a trap", and it is a trap that kills its' victims. So contrary to how everyone tends to think the lives of Jesus' followers have no problems whatsoever - Jesus warns His disciples that traps, in fact "death traps" are sure to come into their lives.

I think Jesus purposefully leaves the nature of these “death traps” open so that we can all think of what might trap us. After all, what entails this kind of danger for me, might not be a danger for you. But I do think that the context of Jesus’ teaching may give us all some guidance in identifying these death traps. After all, previously in Luke 16 Jesus says, “*You cannot serve God and money*” (16:13). Loving money for than God can be a death trap. In 16:18 Jesus says, “*Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery.*” Sexual sins can be a *skandala* (a death trap). And then in the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, we are shown the importance of the Word of God. Neglecting God’s Word can be a trap that leads not just to physical death, but to eternal death as well. But as bad as these traps may be for those who fall into them, don’t you be the one through whom they come!

Jesus says, “*Temptations to sin are sure to come, but woe to the one through whom they come! It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were cast into the sea than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin*” (v.1-2). Of course, there are all sorts of traps that we can fall into and die. But it would be better for us to be drowned in the ocean than to lead another Christian into a *skandala*. And being that Jesus immediately goes on to talk about paying attention to ourselves, rebuking someone who sins, and always forgiving someone who repents, it seems that the great death trap to avoid is not forgiving a truly repentant brother or sister in Christ.

After all, just think what might happen when a new Christian, who is so excited to find that Christ is their Savior, comes across an older, more mature Christian, like an apostle even, who would refuse to forgive them for something they had done. Wouldn’t that be devastating, for the both the new and the older Christian? Might that cause the new Christians to lose their faith? Wouldn’t it be better for the older Christian to have been thrown into the sea, so that at least the new Christian could still rest secure with their Lord? This is why forgiveness must be a constant in any type of Christian community. In a Christian church; in a Christian family; a Christian school; a Christian Bible study; a Christian volleyball team, quilting group, Missionary League – forgiveness must always be there. Because when we forgive those who repent of their wrongdoing, not only are we continuing the work of Christ Himself in moving creation towards a more perfect state, but we are also giving a powerful witness to the unbelieving world of Christ’s saving power. And therefore, maybe – just maybe, the Spirit will be using us to keep some people out of those death traps.

In our Thursday morning Bible study, as we studied this text, it was pointed out that this is hard to do. Not only to forgive those who sin against us, but also to rebuke people when they do. When we’re honest I think we can all say that we have failed to do this at some point in our lives. And this is why the apostles, who had no problem miraculously healing people and driving out [most] demons, cried out, “Lord increase our faith!” They said this because they knew how hard this was to rebuke out of love and concern. They knew how hard it was to forgive one time, let alone seven times. They knew how hard it was to stay out of those traps.

But Jesus doesn’t seem all that interested in the apostles’ request. Oh He hears them, just as He always hears our prayers. But as some like to say, Jesus always answers our prayers, it’s just that sometimes its with a “yes”, sometimes a “no”, and sometimes a “wait and see”. Here, Jesus give the apostles’ a hard “no”. Here, Jesus will not increase their faith here, not because it isn’t important, but because He knows the power of faith in Him. Whether we are talking about a lot of faith, or a little faith in Jesus – Jesus is still Jesus. A diamond in a cardboard box and the same diamond set in a golden ring is still the same diamond and worth the same amount. The box and the ring are different, but the diamond is still the same.

So too if you have a little or a lot of faith that clings to Jesus, you're still clinging to Jesus. Whether you're clinging on with just your fingernails or you have Him wrapped up in a big bear hug, you're holding on to the Son of God who died for your sins. You're trusting, a little or a lot, that because Christ died and rose again, you too will rise again even though you may have fallen into a *scandala*. Even though you may have put money over God; committed adultery; neglected the Word of God; failed to rebuke or forgive; even caused someone to stumble and fall; because Christ died and rose again He paid the price for your sin. And when you repent, you will be forgiven by God.

And Jesus says with that kind of faith, you can do some pretty amazing things. It might not be moving a mulberry tree. It might not be healing people by God's power or driving out demons. But you can do something even better. You can rebuke. You can forgive. You can avoid the traps that lead to death so that you, and maybe even others around you, can have eternal life. Amen.

