



# Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

October 16, 2022

The 19<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 74*

Remember your congregation, which you have purchased of old,  
**which you have redeemed to be the tribe of your heritage!**

Remember this, O LORD, how the enemy scoffs,  
**and a foolish people reviles your name.**

Do not deliver the soul of your dove to the wild beasts;  
**do not forget the life of your poor forever.**

Let not the downtrodden turn back in shame;  
**let the poor and needy praise your name.**

Have regard for the covenant;  
**arise, O God, defend your cause.**

*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 18:1-8)*

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus] told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. <sup>2</sup>He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. <sup>3</sup>And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' <sup>4</sup>For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, <sup>5</sup>yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'" <sup>6</sup>And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. <sup>7</sup>And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? <sup>8</sup>I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

**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**

- Harold Schoen - 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**

- Joyce Fritz - recovering at Heritage rehab
- Donna Birkicht - health issues
- Trevor (son of Mike and Dawn Thomas) - recovering at home
- Dave Dohrmann - recovering after surgery
- Sam (friend of Carol Grimminger) - cancer treatment
- Stephen Stepanek - brain cancer treatment
- Betty Hein - recovering at home
- Faye Sieck - relief from pain
- Abi Clark - health issues
- Norm Rutz - cancer treatment
- Angela Yuza - recovering after surgery
- Doug Knutson - cancer treatment
- Lee Rathje - health issues
- Cindy Broadwater - relief of foot pain

### **Homebound**

- Candi Engel - Garnet Place

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

- Kitty (relative of Doug Knutson) - died 10/2
- Erika (friend of Linda Patten) - died 9/30
- June (friend of Heitlands) - died 9/26

### **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 Lord, almighty and everlasting God, You have commanded us to pray and have promised to hear us. Mercifully grant that Your Holy Spirit may direct and govern our hearts in all things that we may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of Your name; 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

Lord God Almighty, even as You bless Your servants with various and unique gifts of the Holy Spirit, continue to grant us the grace to use the always to Your honor and glory; 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.**



✠ *Pray* ✠

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

Last month I heard the former speaker of the Lutheran Hour and president of Concordia Seminary, Dr. Dale Meyer, say that when Church fails to lift Christ up for people to see Him in their lives today, people become functional atheists. This means that they may say they are Christian. And there may even be some spark of faith somewhere in their lives. But for all intents and purposes, a functional atheist lives their lives and acts as if they are unbelievers. And this can happen to someone who doesn't see Christ at work today.

So, many people seem to have adjusted themselves to a life without God. They spend little time in fellowship with Him, little time with God in His Word, little time speaking to Him in prayer – with the result that spending time with God through His Word and prayer become harder and harder to do. People have almost become strangers to God and so it is hard to listen and pray to Him.

Jesus tells His disciples in our Gospel lesson that they, as disciples, need to never give up praying. Jesus told them earlier that, *“The days are coming when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it”* (Luke 17:22). He speaks of the suffering that He must endure upon the cross to complete His plan of salvation for the world and then urges them to be ready to give up their lives. He tells the disciples that difficult times are coming, and the followers of Jesus may suppose that God is not being just or loving, because of the persecutions that He permits them to endure.

I think about this when I hear of the war in Ukraine. The aggression by Russia against the people of the Ukraine is so over the top that before it began, many people thought that such a war in Europe was impossible. But every day we see it unfolding before our eyes, and while tide of the war is currently in Ukraine's favor, every day we see the violence, the heart break, the tragedy of this war. And if you're like me you wish there was something that you could do - some action

to take. But other than supporting some charitable organizations that help the people in that region, about the only other thing that most of us can do is pray. Pray for peace, pray for the people of Ukraine. And at times that seems so little, but then I remember that is exactly what Christ would have us do!

To illustrate this point, Jesus tells a parable about an unrighteous judge. This man doesn't seem to care what God, or anyone else for that matter, thinks about him. He arrogantly thinks he is above the law - both God's and man's. We don't like people like this, do we? But this judge is being pestered by a widow. She wants the judge to give her justice in dealing with her adversary. Now it is interesting, because Jesus could not have picked two people who differ more in society to be the characters in this parable. The judge is a powerful man in society, probably wealthy and somewhat feared. The widow has absolutely nothing, nothing except her persistence. And through her persistence, even though the judge did not help her at first, she beat the judge down. In the original Greek language, the judge says he will give her justice so that the widow will not give him "a black eye"! This poor widow gave the judge an old fashion beat down, not with violence, but with her persistence. Apparently he does care about his reputation among men after all! And Jesus says if this is what happens with the unrighteous judge, this unsavory character, just imagine what happens when God hears our prayers that come to Him day and night. If the unrighteous judge acts justly, just think of how our God acts. And so Jesus tells us to pray.

We pray with a sure and confident hope that we will be heard, because like the judge in the parable, God does care about His reputation. God will and must be true to Himself and His Word. The Word that promises that His will is always done. His Word that promises that He will always give us our daily bread, when and how we need it for our benefit. His Word that promises that He will deliver us from all of the evil that we and the rest of His people suffer this day. Whether that evil be from those who hate us because of our faith in God or evil that comes from living in a sinful and fallen world - we pray for God to deliver us and know that He will hear and answer those prayers.

But when we do pray in the midst of these evils and it seems as if God is not listening, remember God is patient. The time of deliverance for His faithful saints will indeed come, even though it seem delayed from our perspective. But it will come. God's time is not our time. He is patient and compassionate. So that even if we face the utmost evil of death itself, we can have peace knowing that we have already been saved. For God kept His Word to send a Savior - it is the same person who was teaching this parable to those around Him - Jesus Christ. Whose death on the cross not only saved us from our sin by shifting God's wrath for our sin from us to His own Son, but also fulfilled God's promise to deliver His people. And just like the promise to send Jesus the first time as a baby born in Bethlehem, Jesus has promised to be with us today through His Word and Sacraments and has promised to return again visibly on the Last Day. Like the saints of the Old Testament, we live in an era where we wait for Jesus to visibly come. While they waited, that did not mean that God wasn't with them, just as our waiting doesn't mean God isn't with us. He is with you, so don't live like an atheist. But wait and pray with patience. Don't adjust yourself to a life without God's presence or believing that He doesn't care for you. Because our God, a righteous judge, hears our prayers and promises always to be with us and all His people. Amen.

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