



# Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

11/13/22

2<sup>nd</sup> to Last Sunday of the Church Year

*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 Luke 21 and Psalm 121)*

Heaven and earth will pass away,  
**but my words will not pass away.**

I lift up my eyes to the hills.

**From where does my help come?**

My help comes from the LORD,  
**who made heaven and earth.**

The LORD is your keeper;

**the LORD is your shade on your right hand.**

The LORD will keep you from all evil;

**he will keep your life.**

The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in

**from this time forth and forevermore.**

*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

*(Malachi 4:1-6)*

<sup>1</sup> "For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. <sup>2</sup>But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. <sup>3</sup>And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>4</sup>“Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and just decrees that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

<sup>5</sup>“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. <sup>6</sup>And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

**Sermon** † **The Sun of Righteousness** † *(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**

- Veterans
- Faye Sieck - improved health

#### **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**

- Don Hein - upcoming surgery on 11/14
- Lucas Heller - recovering after surgery
- Philip Hackbardt - recovering after tumor treatment
- Bonnie Bubke - recovering after hospitalization
- Lorelei Hackbardt - recovering after surgery
- Marian (friend of Heins) - end of life
- Elaine Cook - recovering after cataract surgery
- Doug Knutson - recovering at home after surgery
- Joyce Fritz - recovering at home
- Donna Birkicht - health issues
- Dave Dohrmann - recovering after surgery
- Stephen Stepanek - brain cancer treatment
- Abi Clark - health issues
- Norm Rutz - cancer treatment

### **Homebound**

- Candi Engel - Garnet Place

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

- Walter (cousin of Rick Foreman) - died 11/5
- Wayne (cousin of Rick Foreman) - died 11/7
- Valerie Koelper - died 11/2
- Betty Hein - died 10/28

### **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, deployed

### **Collect of the Day**

Let us pray...O Lord, almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may live and abide forever in Your Son, 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.**



✠ **The Sun of Righteousness** ✠

Grace, mercy, peace – from God; the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit. Amen.

A new day dawns every morning. The sun comes up whether you like it or not. And honestly, some mornings we like it, and some mornings we do not. There's the first day of vacation, and there's the first day of school. There's Christmas morning, and there's the morning of your surgery. There's the morning of your wedding day, and there's the morning of your loved one's funeral. The sun comes up, whether you want it to or not.

And whether you're ready for it or not. Whether your work for school or your job is done or not. Whether you're ready for the exam or not. Whether you're ready to preach or not. The sun comes up, and a new day dawns, ready or not.

This is what Malachi says. He told the people of Israel: the sun of righteousness shall arise. And some will want it to, and some will not. Some will be ready, and some will not. For some, that day will be a day of joy, but for others it will be a day of dread. For the arrogant and the evildoers, the sun of righteousness shall arise, and they shall be set ablaze. But for those who fear the name of the Lord, the sun of righteousness will arise with healing in His wings, and they shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. Leaping at the joy of a new day.

The word of the Lord from Malachi says: *“For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall”* (vs. 1-2).

The sun of righteousness has arisen from heaven and come down to be our Savior, to become incarnate. Jesus is the Sun of Righteousness who, though swallowed up in the darkness of death, rose from the dead to defeat death. And He is the Sun of Righteousness who will arise once more on the Last Day, when He will also raise all the dead and give to you and to all who are in Him eternal life.

Malachi seems to speak of all those sun rises. Living four hundred or so years before Jesus, he is speaking of when the Son of God arose to be born a man. But He became man to die, and He died to rise, and He ascended in order to return. To speak of one of those rises is to speak of them all. They're really all one big work for all of us. And He wants all people to be ready and joyful. Not to dread that day, but to look forward to it in faith.

But the people were not ready. They should have been. It had not been that long since the nation had been defeated by the Babylonians and taken away as prisoners of war. The Babylonians had leveled the city of Jerusalem and destroyed the temple. After seventy years, when the people returned, they rebuilt the city, the walls, and the temple... but it wasn't the same. It wasn't as strong. It wasn't as glorious. It was a constant reminder of what happens when you turn away from God.

But that is what they did. Again. Things were up and running, but all was not well. The people doubted God's love. They were despising His name. They weren't offering to God sacrifices worthy of Him, but ones they didn't want - animals that were blemished and lame and blind. They also weren't paying their tithes. And maybe worst of all, with all this going on, they were accusing God of injustice! So, God, in love, sent Malachi to them to call them to repentance. To repent of what they were doing. To repent of what they thought of Him. And to remember: "*Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel*" (v 4).

Remembering the Law of Moses, though, didn't just mean remembering the Ten Commandments, straightening up, and being good. It meant much more than that, because God gave Moses much more than that on Mount Sinai. For after giving Moses the Commandments, God also gave Moses the instructions for the tabernacle - the place where God would dwell with His people for the forgiveness of their sins. With the tabernacle and the sacrifices, God was calling His people to straighten up, raise their heads, and look for the day their Savior would rise up. The Commandments would show them their sin; the tabernacle would show them their Savior so they would wait with eager hearts.

How about you? Do you have such an eager heart for Jesus to come again? For that Last Day? Are you ready for that day? It's hard, isn't it? There's so much to do and so little time. Our lives are complicated, and money is short. There may even be times when you doubt God's love because of what's going on in your life and how things in this world perhaps seem so unjust. Like the people of Malachi's day, it's easy to short change God, prioritize other things before Him, and not really be all that eager for the sun to rise on the Last Day - because we're not who we should be. We should know better. But when the Sun of Righteousness arises, when Jesus comes back again, what will he think of us?

Well, God does not want you to doubt, be unprepared, or fear that day. So, ever merciful, He promises us a rooster, so to speak, who will herald the rising of the sun of righteousness. That we not only be ready but also joyful at his coming: "*Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction*" (vv 5-6).

Malachi calls him Elijah. We know him as John the Baptist. And He will proclaim repentance, but even more than that, he will point to Jesus and say: "*Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world*" ( Jn 1:29). Behold the Sun of Righteousness with healing in His wings. Healing for us who are sick with sin weighed down by life, and in desperate need of forgiveness and joy.

John continues to proclaim the dawning of salvation today. For as he pointed to the Lamb of God at the Jordan, so, too, are we reminded of the Lamb who washes us clean in our baptismal fonts, and so, too, does he point to the Lamb of God who comes to us at the altar. For it is his words that sound forth as we sing/say "Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world" right before we receive the body and blood of Jesus in the sacrament for our forgiveness. So, when the

Sun of Righteousness arises, when Jesus comes back again, what will He think of us? It will be the same as He thinks of you now: You are forgiven and you belong to Him.

After Malachi preached, it was another four hundred years or so until the Sun of Righteousness arose. How long will it be for us? We don't know. But until that day comes for you, you can live in the confidence of His forgiveness and in joy, knowing that whenever that day comes, you are ready. It will be a morning unlike any other. It will be the day of heaven. The eternal day. The day when the sun of righteousness will shine forever. Amen.

