



# Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

**The Last Sunday of the Church Year**

**November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

*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**

*Psalms 33 & 134*

Let all the earth fear the LORD;  
**let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!**  
Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD,  
**who stand by night in the house of the LORD!**  
Lift up your hands to the holy place  
**and bless the LORD!**  
May the LORD bless you from Zion,  
**he who made heaven and earth!**

*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 23:27-43)*

<sup>27</sup>And there followed [Jesus] a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. <sup>28</sup>But turning to them Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. <sup>29</sup>For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!'

<sup>30</sup>Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' <sup>31</sup>For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

<sup>32</sup>Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. <sup>33</sup>And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>34</sup>And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. <sup>35</sup>And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" <sup>36</sup>The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine <sup>37</sup>and

saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!”<sup>38</sup> There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

<sup>39</sup>One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!”<sup>40</sup> But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?”<sup>41</sup> And he indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.”<sup>42</sup> And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”<sup>43</sup> And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

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

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### **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**

#### **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**

- Rowan (granddaughter of Thomases) - hospitalized
- Don Hein - recovering after surgery
- 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) - health issues
- 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**

- Nadine Wax- at home

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

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

#### **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

Lord Jesus Christ, You reign among us by the preaching of Your cross. Forgive Your people their offenses that we, being governed by Your bountiful goodness, may enter at last into Your eternal paradise; 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.**



✠ *Remorse to Repentance* ✠

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

While repentance is certainly not an uncommon idea in Christian Churches today, few, if any of us actually seem to give it much thought. Of course we know that we are to repent of our sins, maybe even that we're to bear fruit in keeping with repentance, as John the Baptist once said over in the Jordan River. But what does it actually mean for a Christian to "repent"?

Well, repentance literally means to turn. Often from one way of doing things to another way. We might think of it as we're going down the road that the devil, the world, or our own sinful flesh wants us to go down, towards all sorts of sin and evil and then we turn. But not just any kind of turn, rather we do a 180 back towards God and living as His forgiven people.

As such, there are really three parts to true repentance. First to repent over sin, you have to be sorry for your sin. This is sometimes called *contrition*. Contrition is not simply feeling bad, or regretting the embarrassment or the fact that you got caught. True contrition is being sorry for all of the thoughts, words, or actions that have been contrary to God's will.

In addition to contrition, the second part of Christian repentance is trusting that we are forgiven in Jesus' name whatever it is that we're sorry for. We might simply call this faith. Anyone who is sorry over their sin, but does not ask God to mercifully forgive them, must believe that their sin is not that serious or that they can pay the price of it themselves. But of course, we can't, and so we must ask our loving God to forgive us because of Jesus' sacrificial death and resurrection.

But there is one more thing that should happen if we repent over our sin. In addition to feeling sorry or contrite, and in addition to having faith in Jesus as our Savior, we should also have a sincere desire not to do that same sin again! Imagine if you confronted a friend who was spreading rumors about you. He said he was sorry, but then went out and did the same thing again! Would you think he was truly sorry? Would it seem that he turned from his old way of gossiping? Now of course, we will continue to sin until we die or Christ returns, but we should at least have a real and sincere desire not to do the same sins again and again if we truly repent of them.

The reason that I mention all of this is because Jesus is leading the women in our Gospel lesson today to repentance. Having been beaten during His trial, Jesus is making His way to the hill where He would be crucified, with Simon of Cyrene (Si-re'-ni) is carrying the cross behind Jesus. Luke tells us that as the morbid procession moves along, a large crowd begin to follow, including several women. Their feelings for Jesus are sincere, as they're in a state of deep sorrow over what is happening to Him. Representing all of Israel, as groups of women often do in the Old Testament, these women show that many are already beginning to regret their rejection of Jesus. But amazingly, out of what can only be love, Jesus on His way to be executed, turns and speaks to them for their benefit. Warning them of the Judgement that is sure to come, He speaks to bring them from remorse to repentance.

Today, Jesus still calls those who follow Him, and all people, to repentance. To be sure, no one here needs to be contrite over shouting for Jesus to be crucified, but Scripture is clear that our lives are filled with sin that had no small part in Him going to the cross. We may think of this as our nation prepares to celebrate Thanksgiving.

In the midst of the Civil War, President Lincoln instituted the last Thursday in November to be a National Day of Thanksgiving for "*the gracious gifts of the Most High God*". This, no doubt, is pleasing to God and, indeed, what He would have us do every day. He says in Psalm 50:23, "*The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me...*" and in Revelation 4 John sees the living creatures around God's throne in Heaven giving Him thanks. But despite what God would have us do and what Abraham Lincoln intended, what has Thanksgiving often become in our lives? I'm afraid that for many Americans, even many Christian Americans Thanksgiving has become idolatrous. Instead of giving thanks to God for His gracious gifts, we celebrate ourselves. We turn football, shopping, eating and spending time with family into idols, leaving little or no room for the One who gives all of these good things to us in the first place.

Now some of you may be thinking, "How can he say that family, which is such a blessing, can become a sinful idol taking me away from my Savior?" But Jesus says in Luke 14, "*If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.*" Jesus is not telling us to despise our families or even our own lives, but rather that even something as wonderful as our parents, and spouses and children must not take precedence over our relationship with Him. And the fact of the matter is, the better our relationship is with God, the better our relationship with others. And yet it seems that far too often, during this week of Thanks, God is pushed off to the side. Instead of a celebration of thanks to God, Thanksgiving has turned into a celebration of ourselves

and what we have done. It's as if Paul was thinking of Americans gorging themselves on turkey and football when he wrote to the Romans, "*For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.*"

If this describes you, or if there is another sin weighing your heart down, then remember out of His love for you Jesus calls you to repentance just as He did for the women in our Gospel lesson. Not wanting you to perish with darkened hearts, He calls you to be sorry for your sin, to ask His for forgiveness, and then live as His forgiven disciple. But even more than that, Jesus made it to that hill where He died on the cross. He did this willingly, out of His love for you and all of creation. Jesus not only was thinking of the women and others when He was being led to the cross, but even while He hung upon it He prayed, "*Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.*" Even as He died, He prayed for others. As He paid the price for the sins of the world, He prayed for you. So now, you can always be sure that where ever there is true repentance, there is always the forgiveness of God.

So, give thanks to God for everything that He has blessed us with. Not just on Thanksgiving, but everyday that we enjoy the daily bread of His creation. And should we fail to do this properly, or should we fall into some other sort of sin – repent. Have contrition, seek forgiveness in Jesus' name, and go and sin no more. And when we fall into sin again – repent! Be sorry, seek forgiveness in Jesus' name and go and sin no more. And when we fall into sin again – well, you get the idea.

As disciples of Christ, we don't just talk about repentance or even think about it – that's all pretty common. Rather, as God's people and by His grace we live it. So that by God's grace and the love of Jesus Christ, we can do more than just talk or think about forgiveness and salvation. We live lives of repentance so that we can have the forgiveness and salvation that Jesus has already won. So let us repent and give thanks to the Lord! Amen.

