



# Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

**The First Sunday in Advent**

**November 27, 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**

*Psalm 118 & Zechariah 9*

Behold, your king is coming to you;  
**righteous and having salvation.**

Save us, we pray, O LORD!

**O LORD, we pray, give us success!**

Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

**We bless you from the house of the LORD.**

The LORD is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us.

**Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar!**

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;

**you are my God; I will extol you.**

*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**

*(Matthew 21:1-11)*

<sup>1</sup>Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup>saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." <sup>4</sup>This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

<sup>5</sup>"Say to the daughter of Zion,

'Behold, your king is coming to you,  
humble, and mounted on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'"

<sup>6</sup>The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. <sup>7</sup>They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup>Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup>And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” <sup>10</sup>And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?” <sup>11</sup>And the crowds said, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.”

**Sermon** – *(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**

#### **Thanksgiving**

- Franciks' 51st wedding anniversary

#### **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**

- Tom Larson - recovering after surgery
- Rowan (granddght of Thomases) - recovering after 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**

- Del Block - The Gardens

#### **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**

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; 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.**



† *Sermon* †

A long time ago there lived a powerful king who was gifted, wealthy, and wise. The king was a talented musician who like to make music on his harp and sang songs of praise to God. Of course to be king, one had to do more than strum the strings of a harp. And so it should be no surprise that this king was also a gifted military leader, winning numerous battles and bringing his enemies and those of the people he ruled, into submission. Everything this king could want, he had and then some.

But this king also had a son – actually he had several but one stands out in particular. This particular son was good looking beyond all the men in the land. Of particular note was the hair on his head. But as good as things were on the outside for this man, the inside of him was full evil

and mischief. This son ended up murdering his half-brother and fled from his father the king. But the king loved his son so much that he begged him to come home. When the son did return, he was far from sorry, and began to plot against his father. For four years he stayed outside the gates of the capital meeting with people who had complaints and promised them solutions. Over time, with such promises he won the hearts and minds of the people as they say, and at the end of the four years he revealed his secret plan. “As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then say, Absalom is king at Hebron!”

The message came to his father, King David: “The hearts of the men of Israel have gone after Absalom.” Then David and all of his servants immediately fled the city of Jerusalem and came to the mount of Olives across the Kidron Valley. There David climbed the mountain, weeping, barefoot, with his head covered in shame.

Hopefully this story sounds somewhat familiar to most of us, as we all may read about it in II Samuel. But even if you had not learned of these events in Sunday School, or your own study of Scripture, or maybe simply had forgotten all of the details of the life of King David and his son Absalom’s rebellion, the story should still have a familiar ring to it. For in a way it is actually the story of our own lives.

At times we are like Absalom, rebelling against our Heavenly Father. Many like to think that they know better than God. That mock His existence or do not take His will, which is revealed to us in the Scriptures, seriously. People follow His commandments when it is convenient for them or when they think they can get something in return. But when this divine barter system doesn’t work out the way that we want, we rebel. We spread gossip, we steal trying to get ahead, we in essence drive God out of our lives and up into the mountains.

At other times however, we are more like David in this story, experiencing the devastating effects of sin in our lives. Whether you are a king or a beggar, it is terrible when things are going bad in your family. David and many of us know this all too well. If not firsthand, then we can see it in the news. Husbands and wives, boy and girlfriends, sons, daughters, brothers and sisters, are all over news killing or suing one another. And it is somewhat ironic that around Christmas time, the tension in families always seems to get ratcheted up a notch. And so many of us, like David, flee from family conflict with the bitter taste of tears in our mouth. We flee because of sin. Sometimes of others, often our own. But the terror of sin drives us away from those wonderful relationship we should have with God and one another.

As you sit here today in church, whether you find yourself rebelling like Absalom or weeping and fleeing like David, take notice of what the world will try and tell you in the weeks ahead. As we approach Christmas, the world will send a loud and clear answer to your sin and problems. In short, it will be said that you will need more stuff. Around Christmas time the world will dangle all sorts of toys and products in front of our eyes, telling us that they will make us better or happier. But the message of Christmas, the message of God is that there is only one reason for hope in our lives. For all who have experienced the brokenness of sin, for all who have been driven from comfort by their own failures or those of others, for all who have cried out to God for deliverance from a mountain or from their bedroom, there is Good News: Your King Comes to You! Here, and here alone, will we and the world find comfort and hope.

Absalom was not the only son of David. David actually had 17. But the Bible also speaks of Jesus as the Son of David who comes to be the King that none of the 17 could ever dream of. In our Gospel lesson, Jesus comes to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, the very same place where King David experienced his shame and humiliation. But Jesus comes from here into Jerusalem to renew the kingdom of God, to reconcile God’s rebellious children to Himself. But

unlike some of the other sons of David, and even rulers in the world today, Jesus comes as humble and gentle king.

Though popular with the crowds like Absalom, Jesus did not come to win their favor to lead a rebellion. Rather, in accomplishing His task, He knows that He will ultimately be rejected by the same people he came to save. And though He enters the city now, He too will be driven from it, bearing a cross, but much worse, bearing sin – not His own, but the sins of the world. And on that cross Jesus will die, rejected even by His heavenly Father. He will even share the same curse as Absalom as we read: “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”.

But Jesus Christ our King is cursed not for His own sin, but for ours - so that we won't be. Our King comes to us, so that we might be able to come to Him. Despite our sin, because Christ has come to Calvary, to Jerusalem...to Bethlehem, we are forgiven, and the power of sin that grips our lives is destroyed. This is why the Son of David returned to the city of Jerusalem and comes to us even today. This is why despite what we go through in life, God will give us comfort and hope that the world cannot give. Amen.

