



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

January 15th, 2023

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 19)

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,

O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

The heavens declare the glory of God,

and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

Day to day pours out speech,

and night to night reveals knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words,

whose voice is not heard.

Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

In them he has set a tent for the sun.

For those with access to the internet, you may now play today's worship video, located on Bethany's website (www.bethanycr.org) under the Worship Resources tab and then continue with the Nicene Creed. Everyone else may continue the service as printed....

Scripture Lesson

(John 1:29-42a)

²⁹The next day [John] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.' ³¹I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." ³²And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

³⁵The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" ³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and

they followed Jesus. ³⁸Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” ³⁹He said to them, “Come and you will see.” So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. ⁴¹He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ). ⁴²He brought him to Jesus.

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

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

- Doreta Bogner - full time employment

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

- Jill (cousin of Karen Pfeffer) - awaiting transplant
- Kathy (sister of Mark Holt) - awaiting transplant
- Francis (friend of Pete Larson) - hospice care
- Doug Knutson - recovering after cataract surgery
- Carol Grimminger - recovering at Cottage Grove after surgery
- Ethel Dohrmann - cancer treatment
- Candi Engel - recovering at Heritage Care Center
- James Ball - health issues
- Bonnie Bubke - recovering at home after hospitalization
- Zimmerman family - recovering after car accident
- Lorena (sister of Brenda Heims) - recovering after surgery
- Ken Cook - recovering after surgery
- Don Hein - recovering after surgery
- Philip Hackbardt - recovering after tumor treatment
- Doug Knutson - recovering at home after surgery
- Dave Dohrmann - recovering after surgery
- Stephen Stepanek - brain cancer treatment
- Abi Clark - health issues

Homebound

- Wayne Schilling - Linn Manor Care, Marion

Mourning, friends and family of

- Marcia (relative of Brenda Heims) - died 12/29
- Norm Rutz - died 12/26
- John (brother of Donice McDonald) - died 12/26
- Winona (sister of Bonnie Breiholz)- died 12/24

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

Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; 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

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.



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

About 4000 years ago a father and son set out for the mountains. Originally, two others began with them, but as they approached their final destination, the father told the two servants, *“Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.”* You see, the father and son weren’t on any hiking trip that day – because this was Abraham and Isaac. And they were going up into the mountains in the land of Moriah because God had told Abraham to sacrifice his only son Isaac, as a burnt offering. So as they walked up the slopes of the mountain that day, Isaac began to look around and asked his father, *“Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”*

2000 years later, John the Baptist was baptizing in the region of Bethany, east the Jordan River. He was preparing people for the coming of the Messiah, by baptizing them with a baptism of repentance. And the day after some priests and Levites question what he is up to, John the Baptist looks around. But unlike Isaac, many years ago up on Mt. Moriah, John working along the Jordan river, sees the lamb for the sacrifice. Because John sees Jesus and declares, *“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”*

2000 years after that, people are still looking around them and what do they see? To be sure, life is not all doom and gloom – God is gracious and merciful and blessings come from His hand to each of us every day. And yet, if we are able to lift up our eyes from the screens that seem to always be in front of us, we might see that the world in which we live is not all that different from John the Baptist’s.

Like today in our country, there was political turmoil and uncertainty in John’s time. The people back then were not worried about who had classified documents where, but they had the legions of Rome and it’s puppet king to deal with. Like today there was corruption in all levels and society and there were diseases and sicknesses whose causes were unknown and consequences downright scary. Back then the poor were neglected at best, abused and taken advantage of at worse – much the same way they are today. Of course, it wasn’t just politics, and the economy, and their own health that people were worried about. Like today, people’s religious lives were up in the air. Just in Israel you had the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the Scribes, and the Essenes – all trying to persuade the people to their way of thinking, so they could get a leg up on the competition. The world in John’s time, or even in Abraham and Isaac’s time, was not all that different from the times today because since the beginning of time – the world has been ruined by sin.

Going up Mt. Moriah, Isaac looked for a lamb to sacrifice and take care of at least some of that sin. This was the system that God had instituted for His people – when they would sin, a sacrifice, often a lamb, was to be made to pay the price for that sin. God’s ancient people would do this. They would do this in the time of Moses and the Levitical priesthood. They would do this through the monarchy and the divided Kingdom, all they way up through John’s time. Yet all of these sacrifices were never complete, because they could not fully pay for the sins of a person, let alone the world. Therefore, these sacrifices to take care of the world’s sin were foreshadowing the greatest sacrifice of all time.

When John saw Jesus he said, *“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”* No one is really certain what John meant when he called Jesus, *“The Lamb of God”*. Was he referring the Abraham and Isaac? Was he referring to the lamb at the Passover Feast? The

countless lambs sacrificed on the altar in the tabernacle or temple? Or perhaps, all of the above! Because all that those ancient sacrifices foreshadowed, all that those countless sacrificial lambs pointed to, was perfectly fulfilled in the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. He truly is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin the world.

This is the essence of the Christian faith - Whoever believes this is a Christian and will be saved. And yet despite being at the center of what we believe and even who we are, it's so easy to forget. Easy to forget that Jesus has taken care of our sin by His death on the cross and resurrection back to life.

Just look at John the Baptist...when times got hard, he asked. "Are you the one or should we look for another?"

Today, as we look around at the fallen world and maybe even our own lives ruined by sin, we know that life is difficult and hard. And there may be times when we too are tempted to ask, "Is Jesus the One? Is He the One who will restore this fallen creation?", that we need to be reminded that He is indeed, The Lamb of God.

We do this through the means of Grace. Reading God's Word and seeing how Jesus has fulfilled God's plan of salvation. By remembering our baptism, where God washed away our sin and made us His people. We are reminded that Jesus is the Lamb of God as we come to His table and eat and drink His body and blood for the forgiveness of our sin.

The Lamb of God does not leave us alone, but continues to come to us today, just as He did with John the Baptist. With him, may we – whatever our circumstances and wherever we find ourselves – remain steadfast and firm in the belief and confession that Jesus has taken away our sin – that Jesus Christ truly is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Amen.

