



# Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

**January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023 A.D. – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

*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 Psalm 1)*

For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,

**but the way of the wicked will perish.**

Blessèd is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,  
**nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;**

but his delight is in the law of the LORD,

**and on his law he meditates day and night.**

He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither.

**In all that he does, he prospers.**

The wicked are not so,

**but are like chaff that the wind drives away.**

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,

**nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.**

*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

*(I Corinthians 1:18-31)*

<sup>18</sup>The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written,

*"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."*

<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

<sup>26</sup>For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. <sup>31</sup>Therefore, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

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

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### **Athanasian Creed**

Whoever desires to be saved must, above all, hold the catholic faith.

**Whoever does not keep it whole and undefiled will without doubt perish eternally.**

And the catholic faith is this,

**that we worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the substance.**

For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Holy Spirit is another.

**But the Godhead of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is one: the glory equal, the majesty coeternal.**

Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit:

**the Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, the Holy Spirit uncreated;**

the Father infinite, the Son infinite, the Holy Spirit infinite;

**the Father eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal.**

And yet there are not three Eternals, but one Eternal,

**just as there are not three Uncreated or three Infinites, but one Uncreated and one Infinite.**

In the same way, the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, the Holy Spirit almighty;

**and yet there are not three Almighty, but one Almighty.**

So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God;

**and yet there are not three Gods, but one God.**

So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord;

**and yet there are not three Lords, but one Lord.**

Just as we are compelled by the Christian truth to acknowledge each distinct person as God and Lord, so also are we prohibited by the catholic religion to say that there are three Gods or Lords.

**The Father is not made nor created nor begotten by anyone.**

The Son is neither made nor created, but begotten of the Father alone.

**The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son, neither made nor created nor begotten, but proceeding.**

Thus, there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits.

**And in this Trinity none is before or after another; none is greater or less than another;** but the whole three persons are coeternal with each other and coequal, so that in all things, as has been stated above, the Trinity in Unity and Unity in Trinity is to be worshiped.

**Therefore, whoever desires to be saved must think thus about the Trinity.**

But it is also necessary for everlasting salvation that one faithfully believe the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Therefore, it is the right faith that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is at the same time both God and man.**

He is God, begotten from the substance of the Father before all ages; and He is man, born from the substance of His mother in this age:

**perfect God and perfect man, composed of a rational soul and human flesh;** equal to the Father with respect to His divinity, less than the Father with respect to His humanity.

**Although He is God and man, He is not two, but one Christ:**

one, however, not by the conversion of the divinity into flesh, but by the assumption of the humanity into God;

**one altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person.**

For as the rational soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ, **who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead,** ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

**At His coming all people will rise again with their bodies and give an account concerning their own deeds.**

And those who have done good will enter into eternal life, and those who have done evil into eternal fire.

**This is the catholic faith; whoever does not believe it faithfully and firmly cannot be saved.**

### 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

- Zimmerman family - recovered after car accident

### Entrusting into God's Care

- Persecuted Christians and refugees
- Those suffering after storms and during the pandemic
- Peace in Europe and throughout the world
- Project 24 students, Yvonne and Lorine

### Healing

- Mike Bollard (brother-in-law of Rick Foreman) - cancer discovery
- 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
- Don Hein - recovering after surgery
- Doug Knutson - recovering at home after surgery
- Dave Dohrmann - recovering after surgery
- Stephen Stepanek - brain cancer treatment
- Abi Clark - health issues

### Homebound

- Del Block– the Gardens

### Mourning, friends and family of

- Helen (mother of Angela Sturtz)- died 1/19
- Neva (sister-in-law of Don Hein)- died 1/18
- Marcia (relative of Brenda Heims) - died 12/29
- Norm Rutz - died 12/26
- John (brother of Donice McDonald) - died 12/26

### 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, deployed

### Collect of the Day

Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; 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.**



✠ *The Power of the Cross* ✠

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

Several years ago, I went to a cabin that belongs to my wife's side of the family to do some electrical work. While I was there, I needed to move a light switch from one wall to another. So after I made sure the power was off to the circuit, I cut some wires, rearranged a few things, and reinstalled the old switch in its' new location. I have to admit, I was somewhat proud of my accomplishment and called my brother-in-law over to show him what good job I had done. However, while we were both standing there admiring my work, we soon discovered a problem. When I would turn the switch on, the light would go out. When I would turn the switch off, the light would come on. After a little investigating I found out that despite being so careful to get everything just right, I put the switch in upside down! Not wanting any of my in-laws to be confused or think that I don't know what I'm doing, I went back to my toolbox, took out a magic marker and wrote on the wall, "This switch is upside down". And that's how it is to this day.

Putting a light switch in upside down, or leaving a bag of groceries in the cart at the store, or putting salt in a recipe that calls for sugar, are silly mistakes that I hope that we can laugh at and

as well as ourselves. When no real harm is done, we get a quick laugh and are reminded that we're not as perfect as we might like to think. But of course, there are mistakes that are made in life that are nothing to laugh about. A doctor putting an artificial knee or heart in upside down is a serious mistake that can cause real physical harm. Forgetting a birthday or anniversary, can cause real emotional harm. And as St. Paul warns us in our Scripture Lesson, believing that our relationship with God depends upon what we do, causes real spiritual, as well as emotional and physical harm.

Scripture clearly teaches us that left to ourselves we are spiritually dead. Thinking that we are basically good people and have no need for forgiveness or a Savior because there is nothing that we need to be saved from causes us serious problems! But God comes to us in His word and tells us that we have sinned against Him and fall short His glory. He gives us His commandments and we realize that we have not kept them. We read in the Holy Scriptures that we are all born with sin that causes us to turn away from God. Through His Word then, God shows us the need to be saved from our sin. He shows us our need for a Savior. He shows us our need for what the sacraments have to offer to us.

Many who realize these needs however still do not turn to God for help. Many still do not rely upon God's power or wisdom, but rather upon their own. Afraid of their sin, they mistakenly believe that they must pay for it themselves. They think if they do the best they can, or come to worship every Sunday, or give enough money to the church that these things will pay the debt they owe to God. But for those who try to do this, it is as Stinger tells Maverick in the movie "Top Gun", "*Son, your ego is writing checks your body can't cash.*" All of creation belongs to God and there nothing that we can give to Him that He does not already have to pay for our transgressions.

And so, where we cannot act, God does. The forgiveness and life that we receive in Baptism was won for us when God sent His Son to die on the cross. When Jesus Christ was lifted up to be crucified as a common criminal He took upon Himself the sins of the world. The world says this is foolishness, that God would allow Himself to be killed and that someone being executed this way, even if it were God, could save the world. But the foolishness of God is wiser than men and out of His incredible love for all people, even the worst of sinners, God sent Jesus to die for their sins. Whoever believes this, that Jesus is their crucified and risen Savior and is baptized will be saved.

St. Paul says that this word of the cross is nothing less than power of God for those who are being saved. When all of us who have been baptized had the sign of the cross made upon our hearts and our heads, we were marked as ones redeemed not by our work, but by God's power. And make no mistake about it. Do not be deceived or fooled. Jesus Christ died for all people, so we know that this promise is made to each one of us. So rejoice, and find comfort and peace, in what God has done for us. It would be foolish not to. Amen.

