



# Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 A.D.

**Transfiguration Sunday**

*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 99*

Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain;

**for the LORD our God is holy!**

The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble!

**He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!**

The LORD is great in Zion;

**he is exalted over all the peoples.**

Let them praise your great and awesome name!

**Holy is he!**

The King in his might loves justice.

**You have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.**

Exalt the LORD our God; worship at his footstool!

**Holy is he!**

*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 17:1-9*

<sup>1</sup>After six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. <sup>2</sup>And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. <sup>3</sup>And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. <sup>4</sup>And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." <sup>5</sup>He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." <sup>6</sup>When the disciples heard this, they

fell on their faces and were terrified. <sup>7</sup>But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Rise, and have no fear.” <sup>8</sup>And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

<sup>9</sup>And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, “Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead.”

**Sermon** – † *Jesus is the Plan* † (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

- Kathy (sister of Mark Holt)- double lung transplant done 2/14
- Keziah (daughter of Darin & Maren Elm)- baptized 2/12
- James Ball - recovered after health issues
- Don Hein - recovering after surgery

#### Entrusting into God's Care

- Sheila Willms- Guatemala mission trip 2/14-2/21
- 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

- Elaine Cook– hospitalization
- Philip Hackbardt– back pain
- Del Block– health issues
- Jim (brother of Ed Schumacher)- recovering after surgery
- Chuck Stoelting– recovering at Cottage Grove after fall
- Kim Neuhaus– recovering at home after surgery
- Rick Foreman– recovering at home after fall
- Pat Krekeler– recovering at home after hospitalization
- Deb Heitland– health issues
- Don (friend of Mary Vezina)- recovering after surgery
- Ann (relative of Elaine Behrens)- recovering after surgery
- Carol Grimminger - recovering at Cottage Grove after surgery
- Ethel Dohrmann - cancer treatment
- Candi Engel - recovering at Heritage Care Center
- Stephen Stepanek - brain cancer treatment
- Abi Clark - health issues

Homebound

- Darlene Eckert– at home

Mourning, friends and family of

- Jerry (father of Missy Gingrich)- died 2/12
- Mike (brother-in-law of Rick Foreman)- died 2/1
- John (brother of Pat Krekeler)- died 1/27

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**

O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King in His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, 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.**

**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.**



✠ *Jesus is the Plan* ✠

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

Every year the season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday which is next Wednesday. And every year, the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, which is this Sunday, is Transfiguration Sunday – a day that the Church remembers the events that took place in our Scripture reading for today. This arrangement of the church calendar is no coincidence. Lent is the somber 40-day season when the church specifically focuses on the sufferings and sacrifice of Jesus. So, just before we get into the Lenten season, we remember how Jesus was transfigured before three disciples to show, that despite what will happen to Him, (despite the sufferings and the sacrifice), Jesus is the Son of God who is in control of all things. The Transfiguration reminds us that for our salvation, the cross of Christ must come before the glory of Christ, but the glory will come. But...for those of us who already know that Jesus is the Son of God and of His glory, what else can the Transfiguration of Jesus show us or help us with?

For centuries, ever since the time of the early church, Christians have been pointing out that at the Transfiguration, Jesus was talking to Moses and the great prophet, Elijah. The church has often taught that the presence of these two spokesmen of God seemed to symbolize the entire revelation of the Old Testament – that is, the Law and the prophets. In this understanding, Moses' presence signifies that Jesus fulfills the Law of God and Elijah's being there signifies that Jesus fulfilled the prophets.

Now this might work for Moses, as he would be a natural choice to represent the Law, having received the Ten Commandments up on a mountain talking with God. But things get a little more difficult in explaining how Elijah could represent all of the OT prophets. After all, as important as he is, Elijah's entire ministry is written about in just a few chapters in I and II Kings. And unlike Isaiah or Jeremiah, Elijah was not what we call a "writing prophet". So, it seems unlikely that God would have chosen Elijah to represent all of His prophets.

But maybe, rather than the prophet Elijah just sort of generally representing all the prophets in the Old Testament, Elijah actually serves a very specific function in the Gospel of Matthew. We see this when we think about John the Baptist. John was sent to prepare the way of the Lord. He was to get the people ready for the coming of the Messiah, the uncreated God breaking into the created world. And in Matthew 11 Jesus says, "*If you are willing to accept it, John the Baptist is Elijah who is to come.*" You see, in the Old Testament, it was told in Malachi that Elijah would come again before the Lord came into the world. We read in Malachi 4:5, "*Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.*" So, instead of just representing the prophets, Elijah represents God coming into this world. He represents the day that will come when all things will be restored and that restoration has already begun with the presence of the One whom Elijah is talking to...the presence of the One who was Transfigured...the presence of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel...God with us.

So, now just think of what this means for us, as Christians, today....This morning I heard that over 40,000 people have been killed in the earthquake that struck Turkey and Syria las week. In northern Syria, because the civil war that has been raging for over a decade is keeping aid from getting to those in need, this earthquake is being called a catastrophe within a catastrophe, with many people wondering what they can do to help – including the United Nations. And truth be told, there may not be much we can do. But God can do all things, and He has a plan for the salvation of the people in Turkey and Syria, and a plan for the salvation for all people everywhere.

And this plan is happening whenever and wherever Jesus is around, giving hope in the midst of the world tragedy's.

Likewise almost all of us have had our lives touched in one way or another by sickness and death. And instead of just trying to make it through the grief and the sadness, the Transfiguration of Christ and the presence of Elijah gives us hope. Hope that God's loving plan to save us from sickness and death is in action right now because Jesus is around.

When we face tragedy or difficult times; when we are sick and suffering, when we mourn the loss of life or the ability to live life how we want; when life seems to spinning out of control and that evil is winning the day – what can we do?

First off, we repent of our sins. Following John the Baptist's advice, we repent, or turn, from our sins to prepare our hearts to receive our Savior. But after we do that, we can remember the Transfiguration. Remember that Elijah was there on the mountain talking with Jesus, because God had kept His promise to come into this world as our Savior. This is not a solution to all of the evil and sin in the world. Jesus Christ is the only solution to sin, death, and evil. And while we wait for His final return, this love of God in Jesus Christ should be our motivation to repent, to work together for the love of God and the good our neighbor, and to never lose hope whatever it is that we face in this world today. For Christ, true man is also true God, and just as He promised He has come and is always here with us. Amen.

