



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

March 12, 2023 A.D.

3rd Sunday in Lent

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 84)

Blessèd are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

How lovely is your dwelling place,

O LORD of hosts!

My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young,

at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

Blessèd are those who dwell in your house,

ever singing your praise!

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

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 Apostles' Creed. Everyone else may continue the service as printed....

Scripture Lesson

(John 4:5-26)

⁵[Jesus] came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

⁷There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings

with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” ¹¹The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹²Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.” ¹³Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” ¹⁵The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.”

¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” ¹⁷The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.” ¹⁹The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.” ²¹Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” ²⁵The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.” ²⁶Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.”

Sermon – † *Living Water* † (A copy is included at the end of this service.)

Apostles’ Creed

☩ I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven And sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; The holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; The forgiveness of sins; The resurrection of the body; And the life † everlasting. 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 storms and during the pandemic
- Peace in Europe and throughout the world
- Project 24 students, Yvonne and Lorine

Healing

- Dave Johnson - upcoming surgery 3/13
- Shari Mehlhoff - recovering after surgery
- Karen Swalley - recovering after surgery
- Lora Raymon - recovering after surgery
- Doug Knutson - immunotherapy treatment
- Bonnie Bubke - personal issues
- Mary Jean (mother of Greg Dunn) - recovering after surgery
- Jill (cousin of Karen Pfeffer) - recovering after heart transplant
- Elaine Cook - recovering after hospitalization
- Kathy (sister of Mark Holt) - recovering after lung transplant
- Philip Hackbardt - back pain
- Del Block - health issues
- 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
- Ethel Dohrmann - cancer treatment
- Candi Engel - recovering at Heritage Care Center
- Stephen Stepanek - brain cancer treatment
- Abi Clark - health issues

Homebound

- Dorothy Freese - Keystone Place

Mourning, friends and family of

- Melba Davison - died 2/28
- Jerry (father of Missy Gingrich) - died 2/12

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

Let us pray...O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; 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.



✠ *Living Water* ✠

In our Scripture reading, we clearly see the divine nature of Jesus. Talking to the woman at the well, He tells her things about herself that are not public knowledge. Correctly identifying Jesus as a prophet, then as the Messiah, we know that Jesus is also much more. He is the Son of God, indeed God Himself. But what we sometimes forget about Jesus, especially once Christmas has passed, is that Jesus also is a man – sharing a human nature with all of us.

As a man, Jesus not only faced all of the temptations that we face in life; He not only placed Himself with us under God's divine law; but He also did the normal things we all do everyday. When Jesus was hungry, He ate. When Jesus was tired, He sat down and rested. And so, it should come as no surprise to us then that in our Gospel lesson we have God asking for a drink of water because He is thirsty.

What is surprising however, is who Jesus asks for a drink of water. This woman has a few things going against her. First off, she was a Samaritan. During the time of Alexander the Great, a priest named Manasseh married a woman who was not of the Jewish people. The elders in Jerusalem told him that this was a great sin and that he must divorce her or give up being a priest in God's Temple in Jerusalem. Manasseh's father-in-law, not wanting to see his daughter lose her

husband, promised to build Manasseh a new temple if he would remain married. He did, and shortly after the decision was made another, rival temple was built on Mt. Gerizim to the north of Jerusalem. It was here where the Samaritans worshipped. As you might imagine then, the Jews and the Samaritans didn't get along all that well.

In addition to being a Samaritan however, in the eyes of many, this woman was also a terrible sinner. While there are times where Jesus says it is not a sin for a person to get divorced, (such as in cases of unfaithfulness, abandonment, or abuse) this woman had been divorced at least four times and is now with someone who is not her husband. As such, it would be frowned upon for Jesus to even talk to her.

But Jesus has a way of coming to sinners, doesn't He? In an almost light hearted way, He asks her for a drink. The woman doesn't know who Jesus is, and it seems at first that she is trying to amuse this lonely traveler. She's surprised that a Jewish man is asking her for a drink of water. Jesus responds that if she knew who He was, she would be asking Him for a favor, and He would give her "living water". The woman must have thought that Jesus was trying to act important, but Jesus is not talking about ordinary water. His water gives eternal life - drink from this water and one will never be thirsty again.

Getting water out of a well is not exactly an easy job. So, when Jesus tells the woman drink from the water He gives and you shall not be thirsty again, she says she wants it, so she won't have to go to the well anymore. But after she says this, perhaps still joking around a little, the conversation turns very serious.

Many people like to sort of play around with the idea of Jesus, as well as religion in general. They like to talk about Jesus, ask questions about spirituality, and listen for answers from as many so-called religious leaders as they can. They are almost like the woman at the well, who thinks she is just sort entertaining somebody who is making wild promises that can not be kept. There are people who even go to church, who will sit through a service or Bible class for what its' worth and take what they can or what they want from it.

But Jesus does not want His followers just take what they want from Him. Because to know Jesus, is to know your sin. And when the topic of sin comes up, it's all whole different story. Nobody, likes to be told that THEY are a sinner. Nobody likes to have THEIR faults exposed. We can talk about eternal life, angels, Resurrection of the Dead...all that stuff is fine - but once a person is shown their sin many say that is going too far. Maybe it's OK if you talk about all the other people out there but, "stay out of my life!"

But Jesus points out the sin of the woman by the well. "Go get your husband." Her short answer tells us she's not playing anymore. She gets defensive, like everyone does, when she is confronted with the truth of the Law - the very real truth that she is a sinner.

Jesus goes on to tell the woman that what mountain she worship on is not important. Her arguments and attempt to change the subject fall on deaf ears. What is important is what you know. One of the differences between the Samaritans and the Jews were the books of the bible that each group considered to be holy Scripture. While the Jews held all 39 books of the Old Testament to be the inspired word of God, the Samaritans believed that only the first five books where God's Word, the books of the Law. Thus Jesus tells the woman, and indeed everyone convicted of their sin, don't get upset or defensive, don't push religion out of the way, because there is more to life than the idea that you are a sinner. There is more to the Bible, more to the Christian faith than the Law of God. There is the Gospel.

The Gospel that tells us that God forgives our sins. Not because we offer up sacrifices like Abraham. Not because we give our time, talents, and treasure to the church. Not because we

worship on the right mountain, or even in the right church. Not even because of who we, or who we don't, live with. The Gospel is the power of God that forgives our sins despite of what we do or who we are. The Gospel tells us that God forgives us because of what the Messiah has done.

The woman says to Jesus that she knows the Messiah is coming and Jesus tells her, "I who speak to you am He!" We read later in the Gospel of John that this woman goes and tells others about her encounter with Jesus and many come to believe that Jesus is the Savior of the World. They have been taken out from under the law and given the Gospel. Given forgiveness, given life, given the living water so that they will no longer thirst. The same living water that is now offered to you through your faith in Christ Jesus.

When confronted with your sin, do not get upset with the one who shows it to you. Don't be mad with God for seemingly making life so hard to please Him. Rather get upset at what God had to do to take your sin away. Get upset that our Lord Jesus had to come down and walk among all the dirt and filth of this world. Be offended that the Son of God was tired, was hungry, and thirsty as He traveled. Get upset when you ponder Jesus dying on the cross, knowing that it is your sins that helped put Him there.

But if you are upset at all of these things, than also rejoice! Rejoice because Christ did all of this out of His great love for each and every sinner. For the woman at the well caught up in all kinds of trouble and for each one of us here today. Rejoice because Jesus did not stay on that cross or in the tomb. After He was buried gloriously rose from the dead to eternal life and now gives you the same. This is the living water He promised the Samaritan women, and it is your promise as well. All of the glory and splendor of this world will seem as nothing compared to the living water that Christ gives to you.

God tells us a lot of things about Jesus in the Bible. It reveals to us His divine nature, it reveals His human nature. It talks about things that He does according to His divine nature, like knowing the sins of the woman at the well, and things that He did according to Huis human nature, like get tired and thirsty. God tells us that Jesus is a prophet, the Messiah, and God Himself. But all of the things that God tells us about Jesus is for just one purpose – that we might believe in Him as our Savior from sin. Where you're from doesn't matter. Where you worship doesn't even matter. Even your sin doesn't matter - when we believe and trust in Christ to give us the living water of eternal life. Amen.

