



# Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

**March 26, 2023 A.D.**

**5<sup>th</sup> 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 116)*

Precious in the sight of the LORD  
**is the death of his saints.**

I love the LORD, because he has heard  
**my voice and my pleas for mercy.**

Because he inclined his ear to me,  
**therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;  
**I suffered distress and anguish.**

Then I called on the name of the LORD:

**“O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!”**

For you have delivered my soul from death,  
**my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.**

*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

*(John 11:17-27, 38-45)*

<sup>17</sup>Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.  
<sup>18</sup>Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, <sup>19</sup>and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. <sup>20</sup>So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. <sup>21</sup>Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup>But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” <sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” <sup>24</sup>Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” <sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, <sup>26</sup>yet shall he live, and

everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup>She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

<sup>38</sup>Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." <sup>40</sup>Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" <sup>41</sup>So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. <sup>42</sup>I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." <sup>43</sup>When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." <sup>44</sup>The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

<sup>45</sup>Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him.

**Sermon** *(See a special note from Pastor Erickson as the end of this service or watch him online.)*

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### **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**

- Ezra (infant son of Ben Venteicher) - hospitalization
- Bonnie Breiholz - recovering after surgery
- Janelle Dunbar - recovering after surgery
- Don (father of Angie Pfeil) - recovering after surgery
- Donna Birkicht - recovering after surgery
- Lysander (friend of Kroemers) - recovering after hospitalization
- Shari Mehlhoff - recovering after surgery
- Karen Swalley - recovering after surgery
- Lora Raymon - recovering after surgery
- Doug Knutson - immunotherapy treatment
- Bonnie Bubke - personal issues
- Elaine Cook - recovering after hospitalization
- Chuck Stoelting - recovering at Cottage Grove after fall
- Kim Neuhaus - recovering at home after surgery
- Rick Foreman - recovering at home after fall
- Deb Heitland - health issues
- Ethel Doehrmann - cancer treatment
- Stephen Stepanek - brain cancer treatment
- Abi Clark - health issues

### **Homebound**

- Candi Engel - Heritage Care Center

### **Mourning, friends and family of**

- Clarence (brother of Luci Stoelting) - died 3/8

### **Serving Our Country**

- Devin (friend of Kroemers) - serving IA Army National Guard
- 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... Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; 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.**



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Unfortunately, due to a busy Lenten schedule and especially an unexpected cold I caught early this week, I wasn't able to finish writing out the sermon for this coming Sunday. This means the sermon for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent is not available in our Home Worship Resources, nor is it available to be viewed online. My apologies for this inconvenience, but I hope that things will be back to normal next week.

In the meantime, you'll notice as you read through the appointed Gospel reading for Sunday that this is John's account of Jesus raising Lazarus at Bethany in John 11. The close proximity of Bethany to Jerusalem will help the reader see that this miracle of Jesus is a foreshadowing of what will happen during Holy Week. In both instances you have Jesus arriving into a town or city, someone running out to greet Him, you have death, a tomb, and finally a resurrection. All this points to the fact that Jesus is in complete control of what is happening.

But what I'll be talking about in the sermon on Sunday is the interesting comment that Martha makes in v.22. Talking to Jesus after her brother Lazarus died, she says, "*But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.*" Our *Lutheran Study Bible* correctly points out that this is a wonderful statement of trust and hope in the resurrection. But it should also be pointed out that it seems Martha fails to recognize who Jesus truly is. That is, she distinguishes between God and Jesus – attributing the power to raise the dead to God and looking at Jesus as only a righteous man whose prayers are answered.

This forces us to look at ourselves and ask, "Do I separate God and Jesus in my life." While we, who as Christians confess the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, may believe we would never make this mistake, we certainly do run the risk of putting our hope and trust in places other than our Lord Jesus Christ. When this happens, we commit idolatry and don't separate God and Jesus, but have a god other than Jesus.

But Jesus is clear that all authority in heaven and on earth belongs to Him. In John 11:11 He says, "*Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him.*" This shows us that Jesus is in control and He has the power over all things, including life and death. As His disciples then, let us not only clearly recognize Him as true man and true God, but also trust Him no matter what we face in life or even in death. Amen.

