



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

April 16, 2023 A.D.

The Second Sunday of Easter

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

Psalm 105 and I Peter 2

P Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—

C **if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.**

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;

make known his deeds among the peoples!

Sing to him, sing praises to him;

tell of all his wondrous works!

Glory in his holy name;

let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

Seek the LORD and his strength;

seek his presence continually!

Remember the wondrous works that he has done,

his miracles, and the judgments he uttered.

He remembers his covenant forever,

the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.

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

(I Peter 1:3-9)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the

last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Sermon – † *Unspoiled* † (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

- Donna Birkicht - recovered after surgery
- Karen Swalley - recovered after surgery

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 - surgery on 4/19
- Merlin (grandfather of Dathan Hinrichs) - health issues
- Oliver (friend of Rick Heller) - ICU after car accident
- Joanne - cancer
- Stephen Stepanek - brain cancer treatment
- Mickie Sjullie - recovering after broken ankle
- Bonnie Breiholz - recovering after surgery
- Janelle Dunbar - recovering after surgery
- Doug Knutson - immunotherapy treatment
- Bonnie Bubke - personal issues
- Chuck Stoelting - recovering at Garnet Place
- Kim Neuhaus - recovering at home after surgery
- Rick Foreman - recovering at home after fall
- Deb Heitland - health issues
- Ethel Doehrmann - cancer treatment
- Abi Clark - health issues

Homebound

- Tom Stock - at home

Mourning, friends and family of

- Michele (sister of Melissa Loney) - died 4/10
- Don (father of Angie Pfeil) - died 4/8

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

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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.

I'm sure that almost all of us gathered here today know the feeling. One morning I woke up, and after the letting the dog out, I poured myself a bowl of cereal. Of course you need milk on your cereal, so I was a little concerned when I noticed the expiration date on the milk jug had passed. But I thought to myself, "Those dates are just suggestions. It's not like at the stroke of midnight your milk turns from a liquid to a rotten solid." So, I poured the milk on the cereal, sprinkled on a little artificial sweetener, and grabbed my spoon. Apparently, my sense of smell was still in bed that morning, otherwise I would have surely noticed the foul stench of spoiled milk as I took the first bite of my Cheerios. Of course, my sense of taste let me know that the expiration date are not suggestions, and that I was in fact drinking spoiled milk. After a quick trip over to the sink, and several glasses of water to get the taste out of my mouth, I sat in the kitchen. I sat there hungry and disappointed. Unable to eat the cereal, I was of course still hungry, but I was also

disappointed that I had just wasted a whole bowl of cereal. While of most of us know the feeling of discovering something that we enjoy being spoiled or ruined, Peter in our Epistle lesson tells us that there is one treasure that we have that is “*imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.*”

Today, we are reminded that Christians celebrate Christ’s rising from the grave not just year after year on Easter, but day after day, everyday of their lives because, as Peter writes, it is through the resurrection of Christ that God, “*has caused us to be born again to a living hope.*” Now every person is born at least once, but because we are born sinful, the life that all people are born into ends in death. “*Flesh gives birth to flesh...*” says Jesus in John 3. “*Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.*” writes David. Scripture makes it clear that we are born sinful, and yet this says nothing about the sins that we actually commit! All of the sins that we actually do from the time that we are born, until right now. All of the drunkenness, all of the adultery, the murder, the stealing, the idolatry that if we don’t outright do, we at least do in our hearts. And with all of this sin that drives a wedge between us and God it seems as if there is no way for us to be near to God. No way to be loved by Him.

But out of His mercy, He does love us. So much so that He gave His only, innocent, and pure Son as a sacrifice of atonement for all of our sins. The punishment for our sins has been carried out - God punished His Son Jesus. And now that Jesus has risen, we see that the sacrifice was acceptable, the punishment is over, and now we have forgiveness. This is our inheritance. There is nothing we did to deserve this, but we receive it because by our faith, which is itself given to us by God, because we are His children. This inheritance can not be taken away from us. It is ours to keep forever. It will never rot or spoil. Satan has already tried His best to keep this from you. But even he, along with the power of death, could not keep Christ in the tomb and from giving you eternal life. The inheritance of the faithful is now protected by God, and there is nothing that can cause it to be taken from you.

Yet despite our new birth into eternal life with Christ, despite the witnesses of the apostles and the evangelists, there are stumbling blocks that people trip over. These stumbling blocks place doubt in the minds of the believers and cause the unbeliever to scoff at our faith. One such block that causes people to fall is the so - called problem of suffering. Christians have a great promise, a great hope for the future. This hope rests upon what is now, what is current, that is our faith in Christ, which tells us how much God cares for us. Yet despite all of the hope, the promise of life and forgiveness, and the overwhelming love that God shows to us through Jesus Christ, many people have a problem that Christians still suffer. We “*have been grieved by various trials*” St. Peter writes. If God really is on our side, if Christ did rise from the dead as Thomas saw, why do we suffer?

In society in general, and even in the Church, we hear people including myself sometimes, throwing around catchy little phrases or ideas to help with this problem of suffering. We say things like, “Every cloud has a silver lining” or “Whenever God closes a door, He opens a window”. There are many more I’m sure that you can think of. But they all basically say that when we suffer, something good will come from it. While this should be true, the good that comes from our suffering is not always what we think it is. In v. 7 Peter says these trials have come so that your faith may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed when He returns again.

The suffering of a Christian happens so that a greater good may be accomplished, but the greater good has nothing to do with doors, windows, or clouds - but rather your faith. Your health, wealth, family and friends may all fail you, and cause honest and sincere suffering, but this suffering is meant to have you trust all the more in Christ who will never fail you. This trust in

Christ is your faith, and as Peter says is more precious than gold, than anything. And so, any good that comes from suffering, only comes when our faith shown to be genuine to others and to us and in the process strengthened.

And so we see that our suffering, no matter who we are, or how hard we have worked for God, or what we have done in our lives, always should bring us back to God. Christian suffering does not mean God has turned his back on us, but rather He is causing our faith to grow and be strengthened. It may not sound like a lot of fun, and to be sure suffering never is. But if it is for the good of our faith, which is by far the most important thing we have as Christians, Peter says that we should rejoice in our suffering. We should be happy, that God is causing our Faith to grow, and ensuring that our treasure, our inheritance of eternal life is waiting for us with Him. For the Word of God is clear that it is through Faith in Christ alone, that not only do we receive righteousness and salvation, but that through faith our inheritance is also kept safe and waiting for us. Amen.

And now may the peace of God that surpasses all understanding keep your hearts and mind in Christ Jesus now and forever. Amen.

