



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

April 23, 2023 A.D.

Third 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 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

(Psalm 133)

Behold, how good and pleasant it is
when brothers dwell in unity!

It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron,
running down on the collar of his robes!

It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion!
For there the LORD has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.

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

(Luke 24:13-35)

¹³That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" ¹⁹And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. ²²Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said

that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” ²⁵And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” ²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

²⁸So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, ²⁹but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” ³³And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Sermon † *Hearing our Lord* † *(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 - recovering after surgery
- Gloria (granddaughter of Kim Neuhaus) - personal issues
- 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

- Larry & Sharon Easler - Summit Pointe, Marion

Mourning, friends and family of

- Aiden (cousin of Kierra Penney) - died 4/16
- Michele (sister of Melissa Loney) - died 4/10
- Don (father of Angie Pfeil) - died 4/8

Serving Our Country

- Ben (son of Kroemers) - serving IA National Guard
- 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) - Guard, deployed in Poland

Collect of the Day

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through 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.

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.



✠ *Hearing our Lord* ✠

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

Earlier this month, a man was watching several episodes of the television sitcom, *The Office*, on a Delta Airlines flight. After several hours of this, his seatmate (who was wearing a hat and a mask at the time) nudged him and said, “Seems like you like that show?” After the man said that he liked the show a lot, his seatmate then said, “Oh, I heard it was not so good.” To which the man responded, “Well it starts really slow, the first season is kind of questionable.” After going back and forth a bit more, the seatmate finally took off his hat and mask to reveal that he was actually Rainn Wilson, the actor who played one of the main characters on that television show! The story ended on a good note however, as once the shock wore away from the fan both he and Rainn Wilson laughed at his failure to recognize his famous seatmate.

The disciples on the road to Emmaus likewise failed to recognize who was traveling with them. But unlike the man on the airplane, who didn’t recognize Rainn Wilson out of his own shortcomings, the disciples traveling to Emmaus were actually kept from recognizing Jesus! It was not that the Lord Jesus was absent from them – He was right there with them on the road, but they were prevented from recognizing Him. They could not see Him for who He is. Jesus remains to them a stranger. So as the conversation goes on, they tell Him of their disappointment and their dead hope.

Then the Lord interrupts Cleopas and his friend, “*O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory? And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself*” (vv. 25-27). They urge Jesus to stay with them, and He does for a while. He takes for Himself the place of host, blessing and breaking the

bread, and He gives it to them. *“And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him”* (v. 31). Now they recognize that this stranger with them is none other than Jesus! The same One who was crucified, the very One whom their hopes were pinned, is now alive and in their midst! No phantom, no ghost, but Jesus! Yet when their eyes are opened to see who it is who is with them, He disappears.

With the Lord’s body, He can do with it as He wants. His body is not confined by geography or time, for it is the Lord’s body. With His body, locked doors are no barrier. With His body, He need not stay put one place at a time. But where He puts Himself, He puts Himself for you. God does not invite you to search for Him where He cannot be found: whether that be up in heaven or in the depths of your own soul. But raised from the dead, Jesus is free to be wherever He puts Himself for you. And you never need to doubt as to where that is.

For the Lord hides Himself from those disciples on the road to Emmaus so that He might reveal Himself to them, to show Himself where and when it pleases Him. And this is how Jesus wants to be known by all His disciples: in the Scriptures – the Word God. It is the Scriptures that testify of Him. So He preached as the very Son of God, who had to be handed over to evil men, crucified, and resurrected for us. The redemption that these Emmaus disciples had hoped for had indeed taken place, but it was far greater than what they could imagine. Redemption took place not in some act of political liberation. It happened in the death of God’s own Son, who paid the price of our release not with silver or gold, but with His own blood.

That is what was necessary! *“It was necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory”* (v 26) we read in verse 26. It was necessary for you and your salvation. And it has been done. The work is completed for you. It is finished. Christ was put to death for your trespasses and raised again for your justification.

Yet even after His resurrection, the Lord Jesus hides His glory. He does not overwhelm the road-weary travelers on the road to Emmaus with a blinding flash of dazzling radiance. He comes to them as a stranger whose identity is concealed from their eyes, a stranger who reveals Himself in His words that interpret the Scriptures concerning Himself and in the breaking of bread.

What the Lord did for the Emmaus disciples, He does for you. Your eyes are kept from seeing Him now, but there will come a day when we will all see Him. (On that Last Day, the Lord Jesus Christ will no longer be concealed from our view. Then all eyes will be upon Him, either to their everlasting joy or their eternal shame. Then we will behold Him and not another. Then in our flesh we will see our Redeemer as Job confessed in the Old Testament. But not yet.)

Now to recognize Jesus means that He vanishes from our sight. He hides Himself so that we may learn to hear Him, to trust in Him, for faith comes not by sight but by hearing. Now we are not given to see Him; we are given to hear Him. We hear Jesus as He speaks to us in the preaching of His Scriptures, His words that are spirit and life. You hear Him in His Word of absolution that declares, *“Your sins are forgiven.”* You hear Him not at that ordinary supper table at that road stop near Emmaus, but at His Holy Supper, where He gives you His body to eat and His blood to drink for the forgiveness of your sins.

Luke records for us that *“...their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him. And He vanished from their sight”* (v31). Jesus vanished from the sight of those disciples but He did not leave them. He was with them as He wanted to be – through His Word. Just like He wants to be with you. For nothing is more important than our faith, and *“faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ”* (Romans 10:17). Amen.

