



# Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

**May 14, 2023 A.D.**

**Sixth 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

(From Psalm 119)

Your word is a lamp to my feet  
**and a light to my path.**

Forever, O LORD, your word  
**is firmly fixed in the heavens.**

Your faithfulness endures to all generations;  
**you have established the earth, and it stands fast.**

By your appointment they stand this day,  
**for all things are your servants.**

If your law had not been my delight,  
**I would have perished in my affliction.**

I will never forget your precepts,  
**for by them you have given me life.**

*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 14:15-21)

<sup>15</sup>[Jesus said:] "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, <sup>17</sup>even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup>Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>Whoever has my commandments and

keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

**Sermon** – † *Never Alone* † *(A copy is included at the end of this service.)*

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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**

#### **Thanksgiving**

- Christian mothers

#### **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**

- Mark (brother of Anne Railsback) - tumor
- Elaine Cook - recovering after surgery
- Ethel Doehrmann - recovering after hospitalization

- Larry Easler - recovering after fall at Hiawatha Care Center
- Tom Stock - health issues
- Margaret (relative of Karl Hoech) - recovering after fall
- Karen Schmidt - recovering after surgery
- Lee Rathje - recovering after surgery
- Colton Kelgord - recovering after surgery
- Dave Johnson - recovering after surgery
- Stephen Stepanek - brain cancer treatment
- Mickie Sjullie - recovering after broken ankle
- Janelle Dunbar - recovering after surgery
- Doug Knutson - immunotherapy treatment
- Bonnie Bubke - personal issues
- Chuck Stoelting - recovering at Garnet Place
- Rick Foreman - recovering at home after fall
- Deb Heitland - health issues
- Abi Clark - health issues

### **Homebound**

- Dorothy Freese - Keystone Place

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

- Larry (relative of Karsten and Sturtz) - died 5/3
- Marj (sister of Luci Stoelting) - died 5/1

### **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

### **Collect of the Day**

Let us pray.... O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; 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**

Ever-present Lord, You have promised never to leave us nor forsake us but to abide with us to the end of time. Grant that those who live alone may not be lonely but find both comfort from Your promises and fulfillment in loving You and their neighbors all their days; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**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.**



✠ *Never Alone* ✠

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

In the second chapter of Acts, we see St. Luke describing the life of the Early Church. He wrote that the first Christians would gather together for prayer, fellowship, to study the Apostles' teachings, and to break bread – not just a meal to feed their bodies, but also likely to celebrate the Lord's Supper to feed their souls. In describing the life of these Christians, St. Luke tells us of how important it was for them to be together. To have a fellowship with one another that is centered around the crucified and risen Christ.

I believe that it is safe to say that everyone, not just Christians, long to have some sort of togetherness in their lives. Human beings for the most part are not meant to be alone. Some might say that we are social creatures, happiest and doing our best when we are with others. Sadly however, in a world where communication and travel have never been easier, we find people and sometimes ourselves more alone than ever, often because we have been abandoned, sometimes by forces outside of our control, sometimes by choice.

In his excellent book *Hurt* Chap Clark describes how a whole generation of children have been abandoned by their parents, their schools, their sports teams and clubs, and even their churches. He says that it is not as if these people or institutions are not present in the lives of the children, its just that they are more concerned with their own needs or their own survival than they are with the needs of the kids. As a result, with all of the time and effort spent on meeting the needs of the adults, children often feel neglected or abandoned.

This feeling of abandonment goes beyond just children today however. In a society where half of all marriages end in divorce, there are far too many husbands and wives that have been left alone. For whatever reason, one spouse, sometimes both, take actions that lead to separation. The result being that a God ordained institution that is intended to comfort and be a source of joy for both people, leads only to hurt and loneliness.

With so many people having lost their jobs these days there are those who have felt abandoned by their employers. With a moral work ethic that tells people to look out for number one, employers feel abandoned by employees. When political scandals abound, citizens feel abandoned by their government. With churches closing and other problems that have plagued Christendom as of late, there are even many Christians who feel deserted by their brothers and sisters in Christ.

Of course all of us can also feel a sense of abandonment or separation from our loved ones when death touches our lives. And as we ourselves get older, and it becomes harder to see and to hear like we used to; as our arteries become harder and filled with gunk, as disease and sickness take root inside of us, very often it seems even our very own bodies and our strength abandon us.

And so what can we do? What can we say? Are we left in this world to live out our last days alone, searching desperately for someone, something to cling to until it becomes our time to leave this world behind?

In our Scripture lesson Jesus was preparing the disciples for the time when He would leave them. This was His choice, but for all of our benefit, for Jesus would be willingly arrested, tried, and crucified for the forgiveness of the world. After His resurrection, Jesus would ascend to the right hand of the God the Father in Heaven. Throughout all of this the disciples would feel as if Jesus was leaving them. But Jesus tells them: *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth...* Jesus goes on to reassure them, *I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.*

The disciples would see Jesus be crucified, they would see the resurrected Jesus, and they would see Him ascend into Heaven. But on Pentecost, they would also see the Holy Spirit sent to them, so that they might never be alone. For us today, the Helper sent by God our Father has come to us through the waters of our Baptism.

By ourselves, we have no desire to keep God's commandments. We do not long for God's Word, nor desire to be nourished by Christ body and blood at His table. By ourselves we want to be left by ourselves in misery and have no power or strength to change. But God knows that we need a Helper and so He has sent to us the Holy Spirit. Out of His love, the Son of God not only has died for our sin, but He has also given us the only One who can help us come to Him and have trust in Him for our salvation.

When we are alone and feeling abandoned, remember when the Holy Spirit descended upon you. Remember that you have been baptized. This is why Martin Luther encouraged Christians to make the sign of the cross first thing in the morning and the last thing they do at night. But when we are feeling alone, also remember that Holy Spirit does not just come to us one time in our lives. Rather the Spirit, continues to come through the Means of Grace. God's Word and Sacraments are like highways that God travels from Heaven right into our hearts. When we read the Scriptures, remember that we have been baptized and receive the Lord's Supper God, is right there with us.

Through our faith in Jesus Christ that comes to us through the working of the Holy Spirit, we are never alone. We are not alone if we are orphans; nor if our homes have been ruined by sin. If our loved ones have left the state or departed this life, there is still someone always with us. When our own bodies fail us and our strength leaves us, there is One who is all powerful who took upon Himself our flesh, so that we might not be abandoned into eternity. So that even when we stand at the grave, we know that we will not have to walk even through that door ourselves. For Jesus has sent us a Helper – the Holy Spirit. And where the Holy Spirit dwells, Jesus is there with Him and so is the Father. What a wonderful and loving God we have who does not just come to us when things are going well, but is with us always. Though others may leave, Jesus is Immanuel, God with us – yesterday, today, and forever. Amen.

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