



# Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

**June 18, 2023 A.D.**

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

*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**

*From Psalm 67*

Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
**let all the peoples praise you!**  
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
**for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.**  
Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
**let all the peoples praise you!**  
The earth has yielded its increase;  
**God, our God, shall bless us.**  
God shall bless us;  
**let all the ends of the earth fear him!**

*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 Nicene Creed. Everyone else may continue the service as printed....*

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## **Scripture Lesson**

*(Matthew 9:35-10:8)*

<sup>35</sup>Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. <sup>36</sup>When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup>Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; <sup>38</sup>therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

<sup>1</sup>And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. <sup>2</sup>The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; <sup>3</sup>Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; <sup>4</sup>Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

<sup>5</sup>These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, “Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, <sup>6</sup>but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup>And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ <sup>8</sup>Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay.”

**Sermon** † *A Compassionate Shepherd* † *(A copy is included at the end of this service.)*

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### 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**

- Christian Fathers
- Lee Rathje - recovered after surgery
- Janelle Dunbar - 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**

- Mark (brother of Anne Railsback) - recovering after surgery
- Prudy Petersen - recovering at Cottage Grove after fall
- Nancy (sister of Julie Elias) - recovering after fall
- Joel Knutson - recovering after surgery
- Lucas McCarley - recovering after surgery
- Ethel Doehrmann - cancer treatment
- Tom Stock - health issues
- Dave Johnson - recovering after surgery
- Doug Knutson - immunotherapy treatment
- Rick Foreman - recovering at home after fall
- Deb Heitland - health issues
- Abi Clark - health issues

### **Homebound**

- Larry Easler - Hiawatha Care Center

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

- Ivan (brother of Brenda Heims) - died 5/29
- Norma Sirotiak - died 5/26
- Stephen Stepanek - died 5/20

### **Serving Our Country**

- Ben (son of Kroemers) - IA National Guard
- Devin (friend of Kroemers) - IA Army National Guard
- Jordan (grandson of Kim Neuhaus) - Army, deployed to Poland
- Mitchell & Benjamin (relatives of Schoens & Smiths) - US Navy
- Harrison (son of Siecks) - US Army, deployed to Poland

## Collect of the Day

Almighty, eternal God, in the Word of Your apostles and prophets You have proclaimed to us Your saving will. Grant us faith to believe Your promises that we may receive eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Concluding Prayers

Almighty and gracious God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, You have commanded us to pray that You would send forth laborers into Your harvest. Of Your infinite mercy give us true teachers and ministers of Your Word who truly fulfill Your command and preach nothing contrary to Your Holy Word. Grant that we, being warned, instructed, nurtured, comforted, and strengthened by Your holy Word, may do those things which are well pleasing to You and profitable for our salvation; 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.**



✠ *A Compassionate Shepherd* ✠

Many of you may recall that at the beginning of the church year in December, the church centers its worship mostly around the life of Christ with Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent and Easter. But beginning with Pentecost, we sort of shift our attention, not away from Christ, but rather to how Christ works within His Church. Our Scripture reading therefore is an excellent text for this time of year, for in it we see this shift from Christ Himself to Christ at work in the Church.

We begin of course with Christ, as He is traveling all over the place teaching, preaching the Gospel, and healing people of their diseases. Matthew immediately tells us why Jesus is doing all of this. After all, why should Jesus put all those miles on His tired feet when we could just go right to Good Friday and get it all over with? Matthew tells us Jesus traveled and preached because He had compassion on the people He saw. He had compassion on them because they were harassed and helpless, literally torn and thrown down. We find that the Jewish people Jesus was teaching were like sheep without a shepherd. This is a common picture the Bible paints for us, one that is made all the more real with that had happened when I was living in Pennsylvania.

In 2005, a man in Allentown, PA was charged with Cruelty to Animals for leaving 130 sheep in a pen without food or water. This is tragic, literal example of sheep without a shepherd, for three of them died, three sheep had to be euthanized, and almost all were malnourished. Eventually the sheep escaped only to wonder aimlessly and helplessly through the nearby woods and onto a state highway.

I remember when I first heard this news I felt terrible for those poor sheep. I imagined these fuzzy little creatures in pain from their hunger, watching their friends die, getting lost in the woods, and dodging speeding cars. Perhaps hearing about them yourself, you can begin to imagine what Jesus must have felt for the children of Israel who had no shepherd. The difference here is that Israel's shepherd did not leave them. Rather those sheep left the Shepherd. Even though they had Moses and all the prophets who constantly reminded them that God would watch over and take care of them, they rebelled against Him and wanted to trust in themselves. They didn't want to rely upon God, they wanted to rely upon themselves – their wisdom or their strength. And having left their Shepherd they wandered far away from the very things they were looking for – Salvation and God's favor.

How many people today do we come across [at work, at school, or among our friends] who wander around aimlessly trying to earn salvation or God's favor. They fall for every new self-help book or spiritual fad and in doing so turn their backs on the one thing that can give them what they are looking for. They, like the Jews of old, want to rely upon themselves and in doing so imagine they are Gods and commit all sorts of evil. Not necessarily evil such as murder, but evil in separating themselves from God. Helping to lead others away from God. Just think of all things that go on these days on Sunday.

But there is Good News. The Good News that we have a shepherd who does not leave His sheep. A Good Shepherd who, even though the sheep leave Him, works to bring them back. St. Paul writes, "*For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly ...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us*" (Romans 5:6,8)

While all of Israel were lost sheep, while you were a lost sheep, and while there are millions of lost sheep out in the world today, Jesus Christ died to save them. He died because as we read, God loves us and He has compassion for us. It is a love and compassion that sent our Shepherd to die on the cross. It is a love and compassion that desires to give us all good things. Jesus says that a thief comes to kill and destroy, but He came so that you may have life and have it abundantly! He came so that you won't have to starve or thirst, but may find yourself in green pastures and besides cool waters. Though you may have to walk down a state highway at times in life, you will have to fear no evil, for Jesus is with you and protects you. All of this is offered freely without any merit or worthiness of our own, but because of God's love and compassion.

This love and compassion are powerful. So much so that they take away the tragedy of the lost sheep. In fact, when Jesus sees the lost sheep, He sees an opportunity. He says, "*The harvest is plentiful.*" There are many who may be brought into the Kingdom of Heaven and for reasons only known to Him, Christ chooses us to help. He says, "*The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest*" (Matthew 9:37-38). Immediately Jesus commissions the twelve disciples to do His ministry. They are to teach, preach, heal, drive out demons, and even raise the dead. In short, they are to do everything that Christ Himself had done. Their mission as disciples is Christ's mission. And your work as Christ's disciples is His work as well. To be sure not all of us are called to be teachers in the church, or preachers, or ushers, or choir members – just as not all of us are called to be mothers or fathers, or police officers or engineers in our secular vocations. But just as we

are to all work hard and for the benefit of others in our worldly jobs, so too are we all to show love and compassion to all those around us. For this love and compassion started with Jesus Christ and was given to us freely by Him. Now we give it freely to others. For the harvest is plentiful, the work is indeed great, there are many lost sheep in the world today, and most importantly our Good Shepherd has shown us compassion. Amen.

