



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

June 25, 2023 A.D.

4th 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 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 56)

For you have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from falling,
that I may walk before God in the light of life.

When I am afraid,

I put my trust in you.

In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid.

What can flesh do to me?

In God, whose word I praise,
in the LORD, whose word I praise,
in God I trust; I shall not be afraid.

What can man do to me?

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

(Mark 10:5a, 21-33)

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, . . .

²¹“Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, ²²and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ²³When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

²⁴“A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.

²⁶“So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. ²⁷What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. ²⁸And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. ³²So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, ³³but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.”

Sermon – ✠ *Discipleship* ✠ (*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

Thanksgiving

- Graduates
- Karl Hoech family have moved back home
- Joel Knutson - 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

- Gloria Schumacher - recovering after surgery
- Mark (brother of Anne Railsback) - recovering after surgery
- Prudy Petersen - recovering at Cottage Grove after fall
- Nancy (sister of Julie Elias) - recovering after fall
- 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

- Shirley Kellogg - Terrace Glen Village, Marion

Mourning, friends and family of

- Ken Koch (former member) - died 6/19
- Ivan (brother of Brenda Heims) - died 5/29
- Norma Sirotiak - died 5/26

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, returned to TX

Collect of the Day

Let us pray...O God, because Your abiding presence always goes with us, keep us aware of Your daily mercies that we may live secure and content in Your eternal love; 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.



✠ *Discipleship* ✠

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

In our Scripture reading today, Jesus makes it very clear that belonging to His Church will not be easy for the faithful. Just as the head of the Church, Jesus Himself suffered, Christians must expect the same. Yet in the face of this suffering or persecution, Jesus holds out hope for the disciples who remain faithful. A hope that is fulfilled in the present and in the time to come.

Jesus begins His teaching by stating some very simple facts from human culture. While a student may eventually surpass his teacher, that would no longer make him a student. Therefore, Jesus points out that students are never above their teachers. Likewise, even though a servant may be a better person than the master, as long as the servant is a servant - the master rules. In short, Jesus is reminding us that as His disciples we can not expect to have the world treat us any better than it treated Him. Just look at His example of the head of the house being called *Beelzebub*.

Beelzebub may mean anything from Lord of the Flies to Lord of the High Places. At any rate it seems to refer to a Canaanite God and therefore the Jews thought of Beelzebub as the Chief Demon. Now when He's talking about His Church, Jesus uses this example of the head of the household being called Beelzebub because that is exactly what happened to Him! The Pharisees accuse Jesus of driving out demons by power of the prince of demons and Beelzebub (9:34 and 12:24). And if people say that about Jesus, you can imagine what they say about His followers!

Just look at the world's view of Christians today. Did you ever notice that most people actually have some level of respect of Jesus? They may not think He is the Son of God or the Savior of the World, but most people would at least say He was a good man. The world's view of Christians however is vastly different, at least in this country anyways. Christians who have a faith that the world can see are often viewed as evil. When defending the unborn or the terminally ill, they are seen as people who want to rob Americans of their Freedom. When reminding those in the courts of God's Commandments they are looked upon as "moral know-it-alls" trying to force their opinions on other people. Discussing the beginnings of creation, Christians are labeled ignorant and foolish. Perhaps you yourself have experienced the frustration of trying to live as Christ's disciple and then being called or perceived as evil. This can hurt and make us want to

stop trying to help, stop trying to love, stop trying to live as disciple of Christ. But lest we are ever ready to throw in the towel as we fight the good fight of faith, Christ reminds us that we have no reason to fear.

Jesus tells us not to fear for three reasons. The first is that the evil we suffer will be vindicated. So often evil takes place in the dark, with men trying to hide their ways. But Jesus tells us that these things will be brought out into the light, and when they are, those who bring evil will suffer. When their evil deeds are made public, they will be ones who are rejected. For evil hates publicity, it hates the light. But what is good loves the light. Therefore His disciples are not only to be unafraid of facing rejection, but are also to be witnesses. As many of us learned as children we are to let this little Gospel light of mine shine all the time.

In addition to being vindicated, the disciples of Christ have little to fear for our enemies can do little harm to us. Now Jesus knew that His enemies and the enemies of the Church are no push-overs. And it is true there are those who can harm your bodies, but Jesus urges His listeners to look at more than just that one aspect of your life. All of us know that our bodies are important, but we also know the importance of our thoughts and emotions, we know the importance of our soul. And so Jesus is not saying your body is worth nothing and just focus on your soul, but rather He tells us that we should not fear those who can only do harm to one aspect of our lives. Rather we should fear Him who has control over both body and soul and give Him the proper respect that He deserves.

And finally we need not fear the suffering and rejection that comes from being Christ's disciples because Christ cares for His disciples. The sparrows referred to in our Gospel lesson were the cheapest food that one could buy in Jesus' time, two for a penny (or actually 1/16 of a denarius), so cheap that they are were regarded as almost worthless in the eyes of people. Yet the Creator of all things still watches over them. Notice that Jesus does not say that the sparrow will not suffer or even die. Rather He says that nothing happens to them without Him knowing about it. Now if this is true of a cheap little bird, just think of how God watches over you, for whom Jesus died! His promise is not that you will never face hardships, but that when you do He knows exactly what is going on and it's happening according to His will.

Thus, knowing that God is watching over us and that everything is happening according to His will, and knowing that as God watches over us He is in control of all aspects of our life, both body and soul, and knowing that evil will be punished and destroyed one day, we who are members of God's Church do not need to be afraid of anything that we suffer in this life. Whether it be sickness, terrorism, or persecution for our faith, our Savior promises to be with us and that things will be all right. They will be all right because we are Christians. And as Christians we confess that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who died for the sins of the world. And our Savior promises that those who confess or acknowledge Him to be their Savior, He will acknowledge before his Father in Heaven. To be acknowledged by our Heavenly Father is our goal - to be brought back to Him after our sin has torn us apart. But Christ has brought us back. He brought us back when He died on the cross. And now let us who acknowledge all of His glory serve Him with gladness. For though it will not be easy, we as Christ's disciples have nothing to fear. Amen.

And now, May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and He will do it. Amen.

