



# Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

**July 2, 2023 A.D.**

**The 5<sup>th</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 89*

I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;

**with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.**

Blessèd are the people who know the festal shout,

**who walk, O LORD, in the light of your face,**

who exult in your name all the day

**and in your righteousness are exalted.**

For you are the glory of their strength;

**by your favor our horn is exalted.**

For our shield belongs to the LORD,

**our king to the Holy One of Israel.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;**

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

*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 10:34-42)*

<sup>34</sup>[Jesus said:] "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. <sup>35</sup>For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. <sup>36</sup>And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. <sup>37</sup>Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. <sup>38</sup>And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup>Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.


<sup>40</sup>“Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me.  
<sup>41</sup>The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward. <sup>42</sup>And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.”

**Sermon** – † *Bringing a Sword* † (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**

- Freedom

### **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**

- Dale Stonewall - recovering after fall and surgery
- Marlen (friend of Ken Zenor) - health issues
- Joe (brother of Mary Vezina) - cancer
- Gloria Schumacher - recovering after surgery
- Prudy Petersen - recovering at Cottage Grove 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**

- Dorothy Freese - Keystone Place

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

- Larry Easler - died 6/24
- Karen Schaub - died 6/22
- Ken Koch (former member) - died 6/19
- Ivan (brother of Brenda Heims) - died 5/29

### **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, stationed in TX

### Collect of the Day

Almighty God, by the working of Your Holy Spirit, grant that we may gladly hear Your Word proclaimed among us and follow its directing; 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.**



### *Bringing a Sword*

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

In our Scripture reading for today from Matthew 10 Jesus continues to talk about being a His disciple – or a follower of Christ. Now, we all know there are times when we might be tricked into thinking that if we are a disciple of Christ we will receive blessing upon blessing from God in this life. This is partly correct. When we believe that Christ is our Savior we can expect to be blessed by God, but only in eternity, not necessarily right here and now. When Jesus talks about rewards and heavenly banquets; when St. Paul talks about crowns and prizes – these are not things we will have and enjoy now, they are what God will bless us with when Christ returns and we are raised to everlasting life.

And so, while God does bless us now, the beginning of our Scripture reading gives us a clear picture of what followers of Jesus can expect. Jesus says, “*Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.*” This sounds strange and seems to fly in the face of the many things that people think about Jesus. After all, when Jesus was born didn’t the great host of angels tell the shepherds, “*Glory to God in the Highest and on*

*earth peace to men...*”? And earlier in Matthew 10 Jesus sends out His twelve disciples to bestow peace to houses and individuals who will receive their words.

But when Jesus tells us that He did not come to bring peace but a sword, He is not revealing His purpose in coming. He did come to bring peace between God and men. But rather He is being brutally honest of what the result will be of His coming. Parents will be set against their children. Households, and perhaps even churches, will turn on their own members. If those who are closest to Christians will be separated from them in this way, it is safe to say that friends and acquaintances will have a wedge driven between them and their Christian acquaintances as well.

Dr. Gibbs from our seminary in St. Louis says that in these divided families, the believer will sooner or later face the question from loved ones, “Will you choose me and my ways or Jesus and His.” Because a Christian has the love of Christ inside them, they are able to love the non-Christians in their lives, and God may even be able to use this love to bring some of them to faith in Christ. But very often unbelievers, or lukewarm Christians, will try to force the faithful to live in ways that are contrary to Christ’s. And at these times the faithful must love Jesus more than their families, their friends, their country, or even their congregation.

This is not easy to do, nor pleasant to talk about. But it is a cross that all of Christ’s disciples must be willing to bear. Jesus clearly says, “...*whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.*” And so today Jesus’ words force us to ask, “Are we bearing our crosses? Or are we choosing the easy ways of the world and society instead? Are we working for treasures and rewards in this life that are like the grass and flowers of the field, here today and gone tomorrow, or are we clinging to Jesus’ promises that last forever?”

In our country it seems that too many Christians and Churches are unwilling take up their crosses and follow Jesus and as a result are unworthy of Jesus. They cave into the pressures to accept any type of behavior or any type of life style. Earthly rewards of popularity, fortune, or easy living are dangled in front of them and become too tempting to refuse with the result that they become deaf to God’s Word of repentance and salvation.

In addition to those who have fallen away from Christ, there are many who say they are willing to take up their crosses, but have no idea what a cross actually is. Many think that suffering because of their sin is taking up a cross, when in fact this is often God’s discipline to lead us to repentance. Others think that things like coming to church on Sunday is taking up a cross, while in fact worshipping on Sunday is the exact opposite of bearing a cross. It is in fact a blessing that God uses to serve His people through His Word and His Sacraments.

Taking up one’s cross means to suffer for Christ – something we can see in history, and unfortunately sometimes today. For the earliest Christians, following Christ’s commands at the expense of the head of their family’s directions often meant they faced shame and punishment. At various times in the Roman Empire when Christians refused to worship the emperor they literally “bore the cross” or faced death by fire, wild animals, or gladiators. Disciples of Jesus in other parts of the world today still face death because they following Jesus. But for those of us who are free to worship Christ without the fear of death, we still may face ridicule and persecution and the loss of relationships and status. These losses are truly painful and are crosses that we must bear. Our Master suffered shame and ridicule. He gave up the throne of heaven to suffer the shame of our sin on the cross. He did this so that we might have His glory. But if we are to have the glory of God as our own through Christ, we must also be prepared to suffer as He did.

It is the foolishness of the cross and the wisdom of God, that our words and actions as followers of Christ cause us at times to face the sword. When we do, should we give into the ways of the unbelievers and the wisdom of the world in order to seek an easier or better life, we will

lose true life – life with God through Jesus Christ. But should we suffer the sword, suffer losses for Christ sake, and bear our crosses and yes – even lose our lives because of our faith – we will receive the greatest gift of God – true life forever.

When called to suffer for following Jesus then, do not shy away from being His disciple. Don't run off after the temptations of temporary treasures or contentment. And certainly, do not think that there is something wrong with Jesus Himself. He is the risen Lord! But rather when we suffer, when we face the sword or must pick up our crosses to follow Jesus, remember His promise. Remember all of the promises of our Lord who is in control of all things and never breaks His promises. Remember Jesus telling us that those who take up their crosses are worthy of Him and whoever loses his life for Christ's sake will most certainly find it. Amen.

