



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

July 9, 2023 A.D.

6th 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

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust.”

Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—
the Most High, who is my refuge—
no evil shall be allowed to befall you,
no plague come near your tent.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

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

(Matthew 11:25-30)

²⁵At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Sermon – ✠ *Giving Rest* ✠ (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

- Those in nursing homes/care centers
- 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

- Philip Hackbardt - upcoming surgery 7/12
- Gail (relative of Faye Sieck) - recovering after surgery
- Dale Stonewall - recovering at Mercy 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
- 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

- Verlyn & Paul LeFevere - at home

Mourning, friends and family of

- Larry Easler - died 6/24
- Karen Schaub (wife of John) - died 6/22
- Ken Koch (former member) - died 6/19

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

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, Your mercy attends us all our days. Be our strength and support amid the wearisome changes of this world, and at life's end grant us Your promised rest and the full joys of Your salvation; 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.



✠ *Giving Rest* ✠

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

Well, what sort of rest do we need? Is it the rest we get with a day off from work to swim, eat barbeque, or enjoy the beautiful fireworks? Is it the sort of rest that comes with a family summer vacation? A week spent at the beach or taking in the sights of the Grand Canyon? Maybe it's the sort of rest that comes with sleeping in. That is a kind of rest, and I'm fairly certain that none of us will complain about an extra day off work. Work wears us out. But is this the sort of rest of which Jesus is speaking? Is this what Jesus promises to give to those who labor and are heavy laden?

The answer, of course, is no. He isn't speaking of a rest that is simply taking a break from work. You don't need Jesus in order to have a day off! So, what sort of rest is Jesus promising to give? To answer this question, let's take a closer look at the sort of person to whom Jesus promises to give this rest. "*Come to me*", Jesus says, "*all who labor and are heavy laden.*" When we hear these words, we easily understand the labor part. We understand the work. Everyone understands the work part of Jesus' invitation. The nature of our lives on earth, even before the fall, involves work. It's what we do as human beings: work the ground, work our jobs, work at school, work for our families, work to take care of the house. It's what we do all our lives.

Everyone works, to some degree. Everyone labors, as Jesus calls it. But Jesus promises to give rest to those who work and are heavy laden, and He's not just talking about those who are physically or emotionally exhausted because they've been working too hard. No, when Jesus promises to give rest to those who've been working and are heavy laden, He's promising to give rest to those whose work has caused them to be burdened. And not just burdened by a mountain of debt, pile of regret, or failure to achieve all your personal goals. The rest Jesus promises to give, He promises to those whose work has caused them to be burdened in conscience.

That's what it means to be heavy laden - to know the work that the Law of God demands you to do and, at the same time, to know you've been unable to do it. To know what the Law of God demands of you as a husband or wife and to know daily that you have not managed to do the work the Law demands, no matter how hard you've tried. To know what the Law demands of you as a father or mother and to wonder every night, as you put your children to bed, when and if your failures will catch up to you. To know what the Law demands of you as a child and to desire to do it; but day after day, you act and speak without thinking, doing what you know you shouldn't, and you wonder when your parents or your teachers will finally have had enough of you. This is what it means to be "heavy laden".

To know what the Law of God demands of you, because you know what the Law of God demands. And even more than that, to know that the Law of God is good and wise and is nothing less than the will of God. It's what God demands of you as a spouse, and as a parent, and as a child, and that's why you are heavy laden. It's why you are burdened in your conscience. You know your sin.

This is why Jesus promises to give you rest. You know that your work falls short of the will of God, and as a result your conscience is burdened. He promises to give rest to those who know their work is full of sin, whose consciences are plagued by what they've done and by what they've left undone. He promises to give rest to those who know they justly deserve His temporal and eternal punishment, for they know the Law of God and they know they haven't kept it. He

promises to give rest to those who work and labor, day after day, but whose consciences are burdened by their sin.

To see an example of this, we only have to turn to Paul writing in Romans 7: “I do not understand my own actions,” he writes. “*For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good*” (Rom 7:15-16). Paul knew the Law. And Paul knew that the Law is good. Like you, Paul knew that, try as he might, he could not keep the Law.

Paul goes on: “*For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing*” (7:18-19). Clearly, Paul wants to do the Law of God. And clearly, he finds, day after day, he cannot do it. Like you, the evil he doesn’t want to do seems to be what he keeps on doing. Until finally, as a man whose conscience is burdened with his sin, he has no choice but to say, “*Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?*” (7:24).

That, you see, is the plea of a man who has labored but who is also heavy laden. It’s the very sort of person to whom Jesus promises to give rest. Not simply a person who works. Not simply a person who has regret. But a person who knows that he deserves nothing but temporal and eternal punishment because of his work. That, you see, is the person who labors and is heavy laden.

To such a person, Jesus says, “*I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you*” (Matthew 11:28-29). “Take my work as your work. Take the work I am doing to fulfill my Father’s will and have it as the work that you are doing. Take my life as your own. Let it be credited to you so that you might rest and not live in fear. For that is my yoke. The Law is my burden to pay so that you might learn from me that I am gentle and lowly in heart, and so that you might find rest for your souls. Take my yoke, the work I am doing on your behalf, even unto death, and have it as your own. My yoke, given to you, is easy. The burden I bear is light when it’s given to you as a gift.”

“*Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!*” (Romans 7:25). Jesus gives true rest. He gives peace for the consciences that are burdened by sin and live in terror under the weight of the Law. He took all of that. He bore all of that. He died for all of that, so that you might learn from him that what He desires most of all is to give you the gifts He freely earned for you, so that you might rest in Him, so that you would have peace in Him.

“Come to me”” Jesus says, “all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” To you who have been working, to you whose consciences are heavy, Jesus keeps His promise. Jesus gives you rest. When the Law shows you your sin, Jesus gives you rest with the Absolution that forgives your sin. When the Law of God shows you that you haven’t lived as you ought, Jesus gives you rest because He united Himself to you in Holy Baptism and gives you His life as your own. When you are burdened by sins you continue to battle, Jesus gives you rest in His very body and blood. Thus, He gives you strength to live each day as you rest in Him.

That is the rest Jesus promises to give. He promises to give peace to you who know the Law of God and who know you haven’t kept it. He kept the Law in your place, and the rewards He earned by keeping it He wants you to have. So even while you work, you always rest with Him. Amen.

