



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

July 30, 2023 A.D.

The 9th 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 105)

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;

make known his deeds among the peoples!

Sing to him, sing praises to him;

tell of all his wondrous works!

Glory in his holy name;

let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

Seek the LORD and his strength;

seek his presence continually!

Remember the wondrous works that he has done,

his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

O offspring of Abraham, his servant,

children of Jacob, his chosen ones!

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 13:44-52)

⁴⁴[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out

and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Sermon – † *You Have The Kingdom* † (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

-Marlen (friend of Ken Zenor) - improved health

Entrusting into God's Care

- Francis (friend of Larsons) - hospice 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

- Donna Stranathan - upcoming surgery 8/7
- Wendell (friend of Larsons) - health issues
- Cindy (friend of Larsons) - hospitalization
- Lucie (7-yr-old relative) - seizures, in drug induced coma
- Philip Hackbardt - recovering after surgery
- Dale Stonewall - recovering at Cottage Grove after fall
- Prudy Petersen - recovering at home
- Ethel Doehrmann - immunotherapy treatment
- Tom Stock - health issues
- Doug Knutson - immunotherapy treatment
- Rick Foreman - recovering at home after fall
- Deb Heitland - health issues
- Abi Clark - health issues

Homebound

- Candi Engel - Heritage Care Center

Mourning, friends and family of

- Alta Dort (former Bethany member) - died 7/14
- Raymond (father of Lora Raymon) - died 7/11
- Obie (brother of Ben Mims) - died 7/4

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

Let us pray... Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love, that, receiving what You have promised, we may love what You have commanded; 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.



✠ *You Have the Kingdom* ✠

In fully one-third of His teaching Jesus uses the parable form of teaching to unwrap the mystery of God's kingdom and the way it works. These last two Sundays, for example, we've heard this ourselves; Matthew 13 records Jesus teaching us that the kingdom of heaven is like a sower sowing seeds and that the kingdom of heaven is like a man whose good seed was mixed with weeds sown by the enemy. And today, Jesus continues this method of teaching us by saying that the Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure, a pearl, and a net. Each one of these examples being familiar to the original audience, earthy, and common.

However, don't be fooled by their simplicity, because as God's own Word tells us, the Parables conceal and reveal. Their hooks are usually hidden. As a result, many who hear them go away shaking their heads "with their ears they can barely hear" (Matthew 13:15). They reject the Teacher and the teaching. They have their ire stirred up by His words.

But not so with you. To you has been given the knowledge of the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven (13:11). And what people who know these treasures find and hear is what they've longed for for a very long time (13:17), what they have lived for too long without - words of healing, words of forgiveness, and words of justice. In this Kingdom safety and identity are given. In this narrow way leading to life, they often walk alone, but they are happy because their joy is in knowing the mysteries of the kingdom. Today, therefore, let's consider the last three parables of Jesus' series here and let us ask, "What is the Kingdom like?"

Well, Jesus tells us the Kingdom is like a treasure hidden in a field. Like the book that we call a thesaurus, the Kingdom is a treasury of all of God's good things. As such, it demands exclusive and radical commitment. You can't go halfway into the Kingdom. But it is certainly worth everything to possess it.

Next, Jesus also tells us that the Kingdom is like a pearl of great value. Yes, the Kingdom is certainly worth going "all in" to have, but it was actually given to us freely. We have not done anything to deserve this Kingdom. We didn't receive it by selling anything we had, but rather we received it by God's selling out for us! God paid the price by His death on the cross. That's how much He values us!

Lastly, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a net. Above all, the Kingdom is of value to the end of time. When Jesus returns again, the fish from the catch will all be sorted out. Not everyone will be "kept" for eternal life, as many will be "thrown away" into the fires of hell. Jesus tells us this so that we will keep our eyes fixed on the Kingdom. So that we will look forward to that day

without fear or trepidation, but rather with joy as we await God's glory. With this joy, we will be witnesses to those who remain outside the gracious rule and reign of God through Jesus Christ.

When Jesus had finished with all these sayings, He asked His disciples, "*Have you understood all these things?*" They answered Him, "*Yes.*" You can say the same, because you have been given this knowledge of the Kingdom of Heaven. That is to say, to you has been given the most precious treasure at the greatest price possible to have until the end of the age. You have eternal life because Christ paid the price for you. Amen.

