



# Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

**August 27, 2023 A.D.**

**13<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 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 Psalms 2 & 115*

But we will bless the LORD  
**from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD!**

As for me, I have set my King  
**on Zion, my holy hill.**

I will tell of the decree:

**The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.”**

Praise the LORD, all nations!

**Extol him, all peoples!**

For great is his steadfast love toward us,

**and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!**

*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 Apostles’ Creed. Everyone else may continue the service as printed....*

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## **Scripture Lesson**

*(Matthew 16:13-20)*

<sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” <sup>14</sup>And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” <sup>15</sup>He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” <sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” <sup>20</sup>Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

**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**

- Andrea - (relative of Steggalls) teaching in Bulgaria
- David - (friend of Angela Yuza) cancer
- Students and staff as they return to school
- Michelle Hedtke - employment search
- Those in nursing homes/care centers
- Persecuted Christians and refugees
- Peace in Europe and throughout the world
- Project 24 students, Yvonne and Lorine

**Healing**

- Tom (friend of Dave Johnson) - cancer
- Charlie Stoelting - health issues
- Donna Stranathan - recovering after surgery
- Natalia (friend of Karstens) - cancer
- 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 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**

- Dorothy Freese - Keystone Place, Cedar Rapids

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

- Francis (friend of Larsons) - died 8/18
- Priscilla (sister of Prudy Peterson) - died 8/13

### **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, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, 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.**



✠ *Completing Our Salvation* ✠

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

Each Sunday morning there are many people at Bethany who have tasks to do. The Greeters are to greet. The Lectors read the lessons from Scripture in Service. Video people run the slides, acolytes tend to the candles, ushers and elders they do all sorts of things. And if everyone does what they are supposed to do, and this includes many who I did not mention, but if everyone serving the Lord does the tasks of their positions, well then, the Lord is able to bless us and His name is glorified here on earth, just as it is in Heaven.

Jesus seems to recognize the importance of completing the tasks of a position or of an office in our Gospel Lesson this morning. As He is about a far away from Jerusalem as He will get, He asked the disciples, referring to Himself, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” Apparently, many people identified Jesus as John the Baptist, Elijah, or Jeremiah – one of the great prophets. And while Jesus was a prophet, He was more than that. More than even the greatest of the prophets. So when Peter boldly proclaims, “*You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God*”, Jesus calls him “blessed”. He is blessed, not because he is more faithful or smarter than anyone, but rather because this confession or recognition of who Jesus is was revealed to Him by our Heavenly Father. And this confession of Jesus as the Christ acknowledges that Jesus is more than just a prophet or a traveling miracle worker or a wise teacher. Peter has made a crucial breakthrough in recognizing that Jesus, as the Christ, is the fulfillment of God’s plan of salvation for the world!

When we, like Peter, acknowledge that Jesus is the Christ, we join with St. Paul who says in II Corinthians, “*all the promises of God find their Yes in Him*” (II Cor 1:20). As a lector reads and an usher ushers, so too does the Christ fulfill the promises of God. The promise made to Adam and Eve in the Garden after the Fall, that said while Satan will wage war against God and His people, he will ultimately be crushed by the Christ. The promise made to Noah, to never again curse the ground or strike down every living creature because of sin. The promise made to Abraham that all people would be blessed through his descendant. The promises made through the prophets that while the enemies of God’s people will rise up, God will protect His faithful and judge the unrighteous on the Day of the Lord. All of these promise had been made, and God’s people were waiting for them. But the wait was over, when Jesus – the Christ – had come.

For those with this God given faith in Jesus as the Christ, that is the Church, Jesus Himself says there is nothing that will overcome them – not even the Gates of Hell. Demons rising up out

of the Abyss will not be able to overcome God's faithful. It is true that they may tempt, and they will torment, but they will not overcome. The Church may face the fruits of Satan and Hell, but it will not be overcome. Christians today are being persecuted in India and Finland, as well as other parts of the world. They are facing the Gates of Hell. Today there are disciples of Christ wrestling with all manners of temptations from addictions and sinful living. There are Christians battling mental illness, cancer, loneliness, and loss of purpose in life, fears in life, loveless marriages and broken families. They are facing the Gates of Hell because all of these things are here today because the work of the Evil One! But Jesus tells Peter, these things will not overcome you. Not when you know that Jesus is the Christ.

When Christians face the powers of Hell and all of the consequences in life that come with them, we often march into battle relying on the things that we think are powerful or that will make us strong. Whatever it is that will give us the power to overcome sin and death and temptation, we will try. But Jesus tells us today, that it is not the Christians who have lots of money that will withstand the Gates of Hell. It is not the ones with the best doctors, support systems, or well behaved children and loving parents. The ones who will withstand the Gates of Hell are those with Jesus.

And to the world, this may seem foolish or weak. And perhaps when we find ourselves bracing for the Devil's onslaught, we wish we could have a little bit more than a confession of Jesus as being the Christ. But it is during these time when Satan and his powers are bearing down upon us, that not only do we remember that Jesus is the Christ who fulfilled the promises of God for our salvation, but we remember how He did it.

It wasn't with the power of swords, bullets, or arrows. It was with the precious currency of His own blood shed on the cross. Jesus' suffering and death, doesn't seem very powerful. It doesn't seem like it would fulfill so many grand promises. It doesn't seem very Christ-like. Peter didn't think so. Just after he acknowledges that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, Jesus tells Peter what the Christ must do. That He must suffer and be killed, at which point Peter rebukes Jesus. Peter knew Jesus was the Christ, it had been revealed to Him by the Father, but he didn't think that the Christ would suffer and die on a cross. It seems faith in that kind of Christ won't withstand a feather, let along the Gates of Hell.

But when Jesus Christ was on that cross, all of those promises made by God were kept by His dying for our sin. St. Paul writes in I Corinthians (1:22-24), "*For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.*" The world looks for power in many and various places. And we may be tempted to withstand the powers of the Evil One and the consequences of sin by all sorts of worldly wisdom and strength apart from God. But what is truly able to overcome is the confession of Peter - that Jesus is the Christ. Jesus is the completion of God's plan of eternal salvation for all of us. And He completed this plan by giving His life as a ransom for us on the cross. It seems foolish too many, but this is nothing less than the power and wisdom of the Omniscient and Almighty God. Amen.

