



# Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

September 3, 2023 A.D.

The 14<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 37*

Delight yourself in the LORD,  
**and he will give you the desires of your heart.**

Commit your way to the LORD;

**trust in him, and he will act.**

He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,

**and your justice as the noonday.**

Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him;

**fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!**

*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 16:21-28)*

<sup>21</sup>From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." <sup>23</sup>But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? <sup>27</sup>For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to

what he has done. <sup>28</sup>Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

**Sermon** ✠ What Must He Do? ✠ *(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**

### **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
- Doreta Bogner - employment search
- 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**

- Cherie Miller - recovering after surgery
- Donna Stranathan - recovering after surgery
- 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**

- Verlyn & Paul LeFevere - at home

### **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, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him wherever He leads; 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

Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us perfectly to know Your Son, Jesus Christ, to be the way, the truth, and the life, that following His steps we may steadfastly walk in the way that leads to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**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.**



✠ What Must He Do? ✠

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

As we turn our attention to our Scripture lesson today from the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter of St. Matthew's Gospel, we would do well to remember what had happened just before Jesus begins to explain all that He must endure in Jerusalem. You may recall last week, we heard Jesus ask His disciples' who they thought He was. Peter gave the excellent answer that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the Living God. Now that Jesus knows the disciples understand that He is the Messiah, promised by God since the time of Eden, He instructs the disciples in what it means to be the Messiah. And as we see, what Peter and the rest of the disciples thought the Messiah should be and what Jesus really is, are very different things.

We need to be careful as well, because we can fall into the same trap that Peter does. If we stray from God's Word, we might be tempted to think that our relationship with God should only make us stronger, healthier, wealthier, or wiser. Sociologist Alan Wolfe writing in Newsweek a few years ago said for many in this country, "*Rather than [an individual's faith] being about a god who commands you, it's about finding a religion that empowers you.*" (August 2005). Now this seems totally natural, after all we like to be on the winning team in life. We cheer for our favorite

teams and favorite players and we support our favorite causes and candidates, hoping that they will all come out on top.

Peter fits this description perfectly. He knows that Jesus is the Messiah. He knows that Jesus is the Son of God. And now Jesus is telling him that He will have to suffer and be killed! This is not empowering or glorious. It certainly is un-American and it doesn't sound too much what many thought God's Messiah should be like either. So is it any wonder that Peter pulls Jesus aside to rebuke Him! Can't you just see Peter saying, "OK Jesus, let me tell you how it really is going to be..." He says that all that talk about suffering and dying will never happen to Jesus.

So offensive is this to Jesus; so contrary to why Jesus is even walking and talking to the disciples, that Jesus uses some of the harshest language that we find in all of the Scriptures. "Get behind me, Satan!" Jesus thunders at Peter. "You are a stumbling block, a trap, to me!" Jesus takes Peter to task saying he thinks like a man, not like God. Peter does not listen to Jesus when the Messiah says He MUST go to Jerusalem. He MUST suffer. And yes, He MUST be killed.

Why did Jesus, God's only Son, have to go through this horror? Why did Jesus have to leave His throne in Heaven, give up His power and take on our human flesh as a lowly child in a manger? Why the nails in His hands and feet, why a crown of thorns and not crown of glory? Why did He cry out on the cross to His Father, "My God, my God why have you forsaken me?" Why? Because God does not forsake you!

When you are trapped by sin and evil in this world, God will not forsake you because of the toil of His Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Jesus' suffering and death paid the price for our disobedience to God. It took His perfect, sinless life to pay the debts of the world - and that is exactly what Jesus was and did in Jerusalem on the cross. And we know that Jesus paid the price in full because today the tomb in which His body was placed is empty. His resurrection on the third day is the receipt that shows our sin has been paid for. No longer do we have to worry about our sin or live under guilt or fear, for Jesus did exactly what He said He would do.

But for many people, there is still suffering today. For many, there is still a struggle to live as God wants. And it is painfully frustrating to suffer and battle with sin knowing that Jesus has died on the cross for us. Today, as many of us know, Christians around the world in places like India are being persecuted. Christians in Ukraine and Africa face the horrors of war and violence. No doubt, many are asking, "Why is this happening?" Why is there such evil, when Christ has died for our sin?

Despite the cross of Christ, the never ending stream of war, persecution, sickness, and other problems in life can cause us to doubt God's love. It may cause us to ask if He died for me personally. It may cause us to doubt whether we actually believe enough to grasp hold of the benefits of our faith. This why some Christians wrongly say that Christ did not die for all people, or that if you have problems in life, you just don't believe enough!

But now, knowing God's love, we need to listen to God. We need to be reminded that being on the winning team, does not mean we live as winners in this world as the world thinks. That is what Satan would have you believe. Rather a disciple of Christ heeds Christ's words when he says, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." Jesus here is not talking about being mildly inconvenienced because of your faith.

To those disciples to whom Jesus was talking, at times the cross meant humiliation and a painful death. It meant being crucified themselves, cut in half, covered in blood and animal skins and thrown to hungry beasts for the entertainment of others. But at times it can also mean a painful life. Taking up the cross means to kill our self-centeredness and selfishness. We would never say that those who are truly suffering in this world are just being selfish. But we do, with God's Word,

encourage them to have in mind the things of God. To think eternally, instead of only in the here and now.

For the irony of our lives is that according to the wisdom and grace of God, it is at the cross of Christ, where we find what so many people are seeking today. Jesus says, “*Whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it*”! So many people try to save and alleviate their suffering themselves, but it is the one who in faith, who places their lives in the hands of God, trusting in His promises, who will not only be saved, but also have peace right here and now. With faith, Ignatius said in 110 AD as he was about to be put to death for his faith, “*Nearer the sword, then nearer to God.*” With faith, we can confidently say, “Nearer the problems, nearer Christ. Nearer the bully, the loneliness, even death, then nearer we are to Jesus.”

Jesus, God’s chosen one to save the world from sin and death, died on the cross to give everyone eternal life. His victory is our victory through faith in Him. Let us now live as victors in His name. But living victoriously as a Christian is not what the world thinks. It means picking up your cross, and following your savior. Our suffering and struggles do not mean that God has forgotten us or does not love us, it means that we are with the one who suffered and died for the whole world! And on His team, though life may be hard now, we know we will have a life forever, that one day will be perfect and free from every sin and trouble we know of today. Amen.

