



# Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

**October 1, 2023 A.D.**

**LWML Sunday**

*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 147*

The LORD lifts up the humble;  
**he casts the wicked to the ground.**  
Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God;  
**for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.**  
The LORD builds up Jerusalem;  
**he gathers the outcasts of Israel.**  
He heals the brokenhearted  
**and binds up their wounds.**  
He determines the number of the stars;  
**he gives to all of them their names.**  
Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;  
**his understanding is beyond measure.**

*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**

*(Philippians 2:1-13)*

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of

death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup>for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

**Sermon**      ✠ Humble Service ✠ *(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**

- LWML Sunday

#### **Entrusting into God's Care**

- Chad (friend of Stepaneks) - hospice care
- Tom Stock - hospice care
- Persecuted Christians and refugees
- Peace in Europe and throughout the world
- Project 24 students, Yvonne and Lorine

#### **Healing**

- Rick Foreman - recovering after surgery
- Cherie Miller - recovering after surgery
- Donna Stranathan - recovering after surgery
- Philip Hackbardt - recovering after surgery
- Dale Stonewall - recovering after fall
- Ethel Doehrmann - immunotherapy treatment
- Doug Knutson - immunotherapy treatment
- Deb Heitland - health issues
- Abi Clark - health issues

#### **Homebound**

- Del Block - The Gardens

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

- Wendell (friend of Larsons) - died 9/11

#### **Serving Our Country**

- Ben (son of Kroemers) - IA National Guard
- Devin (friend of Kroemers) - IA Army National Guard
- Mitchell & Benjamin (relatives of Schoens & Smiths) - US Navy
- Harrison (son of Siecks) - US Army, stationed in TX

## Collect of the Day

Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; 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

O God, you resist the proud and give grace to the humble. Grant us true humility after the likeness of Your only Son that we may never be arrogant and prideful and thus provoke Your wrath but in all lowliness be made partakers of the gifts of Your grace; through 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.**



✠ Humble Service ✠

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

A little child, sleeping alone in the darkness of her room, cried out to mom and dad as a storm rolled across her Midwest-town. “Mom, dad, come in here,” she cried in the dark of night, as the storm raged and roared as if it was in the room with her. Her mother and father consoled her and reminded her that they were in the very next room and even better, God Himself was in her room with her - so she had absolutely nothing to fear. They encouraged her to go back to sleep and she did. But she was soon awakened again by the flashes of lightning and the crashes of thunder. As her exhausted parents entered into her room once again, she said, “I know you said God is in here with me, but I need someone in here with some skin on them.”

Of course, our Lord and Savior has taken upon Himself our human flesh when He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. That same flesh was crucified, died and was buried. It rose for the dead on the third day, ascended into heaven, and will come back to judge the living and the dead. Jesus took on our human flesh and still has it and always will. But sometimes...sometimes our Lord (true God and true Man) seems a little bit hidden. Most people believe in God, but when their eyes see the trouble of the world roll into their lives; when sin and evil thunder and crash around them, then their hearts long for someone their eyes can more easily see.

As the church celebrates Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (or LWML) Sunday this weekend, we give thanks to God for the faithful service of the many women in this organization. The LWML is the leading women’s organization of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and their motto is “Serve the Lord with Gladness” based on Psalm 100:2. And when the women of the LWML serve our Lord with Gladness, not only are they pleasing God, they are also in a very real way “putting skin” on God so that He can clearly be seen by all.

St. Paul seemed to know how this works when He wrote our Epistle/Scripture Lesson for today. Writing to the Christians in the city of Philippi, Paul encourages them to do all sorts of things that Christians are supposed to do, and some of it actually seems pretty mundane. He says in essence, that the Philippians should be humble; that they should look out for others. Later on, after our text, Paul says that the Philippians should do these things without grumbling or arguing with one another. All of this should not be surprising to Jesus’ disciples. Humble service to our neighbors as we live with them in peace is the essence of Christian living. We see this today in the LWML and hopefully in the lives of all Christians everywhere.

What we may not see however, and what Paul calls our attention to, is how even the most basic and simple acts of service and kindness are actually a part of something much bigger. Right after Paul tells his readers to be humble and look out for one another, he writes, “*Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross*” (Philippians 2:5-8).

The reason why Paul urges Christians to be humble and to serve others is because our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ was humble and came to serve others. As Paul writes, Jesus is God, but He willingly laid aside, not His divine nature, but the power that belonged to Him as God. And the reason that Jesus did this is so that He could suffer and die on the cross, paying the price for our sin. Jesus served us and all of humanity by suffering and dying so our sins could be forgiven.

And now, Paul writes, “*God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father*” (Philippians 2:9-11).

This section of Philippians shows us how the humble service of Jesus’ death on the cross for our sin not only saves us, but also reveals all of the glory, all of the splendor of the One True and Almighty God. God’s glory is not found in the flood waters of Noah or the ashes of Sodom and Gomorrah. You won’t find God’s glory at the gates of Hell or anywhere that God judges His people for their sin. Of course, God has, does, and will continue to judge and to punish. But that is not He wants to do. Peter writes in his second letter, “*The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance*” (II Peter 3:9). So, where we do clearly see God’s glory is in His Son Jesus Christ. John writes at the beginning of his Gospel, “*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth*” (John 1:14).

This humble service of our Lord not only reveals God’s glory however, it is also is the encouragement to live as Paul writes to the Philippians. For if Jesus gave up all of His glory and power to save me, how can I do anything but to live a humble life of service? When Jesus’s suffering and death has reconciled me with God, how can I argue with others? When Christ

willingly endured all of this to save me from sin and eternal death, how can I grumble when I serve others? Of course no one lives according to God's ways perfectly. We remain sinners and well as saints. But Christ's example of humble service drives us to serve others in ways that we could not by ourselves.

And when we do this, another amazing thing happens. When we humbly serve others in in Jesus' name, no matter how small that act of service is, we are joining Jesus Himself in His much larger and more glorious ministry of reconciling the world back to God! When the LWML makes quilts or plays bingo in nursing homes, it is Christ is at work. When any of you, help or care for a child, a parent, or a neighbor Christ is at work. You may think that what you or the LWML does is small or insignificant, but when it is done in Jesus's name, when it is done with Christ's atoning work in your mind, it is God at work through you. It is...putting some skin on the work of God in people's lives today.

In a world today where it is so easy to see evil and despair, the LWML continues their humble service in Jesus's name so that others may see God at work in their lives and around the world. And just as when any of you love and serve others, the LWML joins with Jesus Himself in their humble service to others. So today, let us give thanks to God for the LWML and to everyone who heeds Paul's call to do those simple things – to be humble, to look out for others, and not to grumble or argue with others. For when we do these things, and anything else to serve and love others, not only are we following God's commands, but we are also joining with Jesus in His glorious and redemptive work. We are the skin that the world can see as God loves and serves them through Jesus Christ. Amen.

