



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

October 8, 2023 A.D.

19th 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 118)

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

for his steadfast love endures forever!

The stone that the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone.

This is the LORD's doing;

it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the LORD has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it.

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 21:33-46)

³³[Jesus said:] "Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. ³⁴When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. ³⁵And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' ³⁹And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. ⁴⁰When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" ⁴¹They said to him, "He will put those wretches

to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.”

⁴²Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

“*The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes*”?

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. ⁴⁴And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

Sermon † *Your Cornerstone* † *(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

- Liam James Freese -born 9/29 (Grandson of Freeses)

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

Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness 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.



✠ *Your Cornerstone* ✠

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

In our Scripture reading today, Jesus tells us the Parable of the Tenants. There is a master of a house, representing God, who does everything he can to have a good vineyard that produces fruit at harvest time. He then leaves the whole operation to his tenants – giving them the benefits of his labor and trusting them to give him a portion of the fruit in season. In the parable, the owner sends his servants to the vineyard when the fruit is ready and surprisingly they beat one of them and kill two others! The vineyard in this story represents God's people, and the tenants are the religious leaders that are charged with caring for them while they produce the good fruit of righteousness. God sends His prophets to His people, but the tenants or religious elite, beat and kill them. So God sent His Son.

In the parable, the tenants kill the owner's son, thinking that they will have something to gain. So what will happen when the owner comes back? And make no mistake, he will come back. Having rejected the prophets, God sent His Son Jesus into this world. And when the time was right, when they thought they could get away with it, when they thought they had the most to gain, the Pharisees and the Chief Priests would plot to have Jesus killed. So what will happen to them on Judgment Day?

Now it is easy to look down at the Pharisees - throughout the Gospels they are opposing the work and teachings of our Lord and Savior. But while these men were evil, (they plotted to have an innocent man killed), in many ways they are like ourselves. They were Pharisees because they had the best of intentions in life. Most of them were sincere in caring for God's people. And in doing so they were admired as leaders in society and for their high moral standards. But in caring for God's vineyard, they had lost their way.

Jesus says in Matthew 21:42, “*Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’?*” The cornerstone is the most important stone in the entire building. It is the one that determines how all of the other stones in the foundation or walls will be laid out and binds them all together so that the structure may stand with strength. It was an important stone. But God tells us, that the stone that no one thought was good enough; the stone that no one thought was worthy enough, the stone that people wanted nothing to do with – is the stone that God has made the most important.

The Pharisees let something else, other than Jesus, become that cornerstone in their lives. And therefore they will answer to God when He returns. But what about us? Is Jesus the cornerstone in our lives or have other things become more important? Many of us may say that He is, but unfortunately there are many times when all of our thoughts, words, and deeds say that He is not. For when we sin, when we stray from path that God would have us walk down, we let something else become more important to us than Jesus. Martin Luther says that everyone has a god. It is whatever you fear, love and trust. Your cornerstone in life, is whatever you love and trust in the most. And when we sin, we are not loving, or trusting, or fearing God. Rather we are chasing after the sinful desires that come from within or are presented to us by the world. And so wealth, power, fame, sex – can all become our cornerstones. Living for ourselves, we become our cornerstone.

But the true Cornerstone of all our lives was rejected, so that we could be forgiven of rejecting Him. When Jesus died on the cross, our sin was paid for. We are forgiven, so that when the owner of the vineyard comes, (that is when we die or when Christ returns in glory), we no longer need to fear God, because we know that are forgiven. Whatever our sin has been and for all of the times that we have let something become more important to us than God, God forgives us because of His love through Jesus.

It is this love of God that compels us to keep Jesus as the cornerstone of our lives and we do this by staying in His Word – the Scriptures. (Even Jesus Himself shows us the importance of the Bible when He asks, “Have you never read in the Scriptures...?” and then quotes the Psalms to teach us about Himself.) In His Word, and in His sacraments, we clearly see God’s love for each of in Jesus Christ. Therefore we are encouraged, to read, study, and learn the Scriptures, so that we will be compelled by His love to keep Christ as the cornerstone in our lives. Amen.

