



# Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

October 15, 2023 A.D.

The 20<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 Isaiah 61 and Psalm 146*

I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

**☩ I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;

**my soul shall exult in my God,**

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation

**he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,**

as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,

**and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.**

*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....*

---

## Scripture Lesson

*(Matthew 22:1-14)*

<sup>1</sup>Again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, <sup>2</sup>“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, <sup>3</sup>and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. <sup>4</sup>Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.’ <sup>5</sup>But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, <sup>6</sup>while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. <sup>7</sup>The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. <sup>8</sup>Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. <sup>9</sup>Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.’ <sup>10</sup>And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests.

<sup>11</sup>“But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. <sup>12</sup>And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. <sup>13</sup>Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ <sup>14</sup>For many are called, but few are chosen.”

**Sermon**    † *The Invitation* † *(A copy is included at the end of this service.)*

---

### **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**

- Donna Stranathan - recovered after surgery
- Cherie Miller - recovered after surgery

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

- Ron (brother of Ray McGraw) - hospice care
- Tom Stock - hospice care
- Persecuted Christians and refugees
- Peace in Europe and throughout the world
- Project 24 students, Yvonne and Lorine

### **Healing**

- David (father of E. Heller & M. Rinderknecht) - recovering after surgery
- Sarah (daughter of Henkelmanns) - health issues
- Rick Foreman - 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**

- Shirley Kellogg - Terrace Glen Village, Marion

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

- Chad (friend of Stepaneks) - died 10/3

### **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 invite us to trust in You for our salvation. Deal with us not in the severity of Your judgment but by the greatness of Your mercy; 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.**



### **✠ *The Invitation* ✠**

Most of us have at one time or another, felt the sting of rejection by not being invited to some popular gathering. Perhaps when we were younger, we did not get invited to a birthday party. Maybe there was a dance at one of our schools that no one asked us to or the person we asked said no. Maybe we missed a wedding, a shower, or a reunion that we would have loved to go to, if only we would have received an invitation. Not being invited to something special can hurt our feelings. And the more important something is, the more we can be hurt. Conversely, almost all of us love to be invited to events and parties, and are often willing to pay to go. Some people will stand outside in line to get into a popular hangout. Others will often pay a cover charge to get in. Again, the more important or popular something is, the more people are willing to do.

Perhaps this is why it is so surprising to find people rejecting the king's invitation to his son's wedding banquet. In our parable, his son is getting married and according to custom, invitations have been sent out well ahead of time. Then as the day approaches invitations are sent out again. Now common sense and experience tells us that no one would turn down a free meal, let alone a free banquet - especially with someone as important as the king. But surprise, surprise, people do turn down the invitation. Jesus tells us they refused to come. The king sends out the servants again, telling them to describe in wonderful detail all that is ready. The meat has been cooked to perfection, the best wine is poured, and the band is ready to play. But what did the people do? One went off to his field, another to his business. And the rest killed the servants that the kings sent.

As Jesus spoke this parable, those listening to Him would quickly see what He was talking about. Jesus after all says this is what the Kingdom of Heaven is like. There is a king, who is God, wanting to have a great party, a wonderful feast, but people don't want to come. Instead, they make up some lame excuses. "Sorry King, I have to go to work." Or "I have some land or a home that I have to take care of. The grass is getting pretty long I have to cut it, or the house needs

to be painted and when you are having your feast is really the only time that I can take care of it". It seems so strange doesn't it? So contrary to everything we know, contrary to logic, and even nature. But the fact of the matter is that it really isn't that strange at all. For all of us here have made up excuses when God Himself invites us to share in all of his blessings.

We have all made up these excuses not to come to God's feast because we are sinful. We don't enjoy the party God invites us to, we don't receive his blessings, because we are sinners. Oh sure, we have our excuses too. Why don't we pray? Perhaps we just don't have the time? Jesus' examples of the excuses offered are strikingly contemporary aren't they? Why don't we come to worship, where God wants to forgive your sins and strengthen your faith that gives you and your family life. Have to go to your business? Your land? Grass needs to be cut and the house painted? It is the only time you can do it, isn't it? Why don't we read the bible more, if at all? Too hard to understand, don't have the time, or Pastor will let me tell me what I need to know. We all have our excuses don't we, but unfortunately they are not just lame, they are sinful.

At this point in the parable, many people want to stop, or skip over some parts. People feel that it is not socially sensitive to talk about the king's response to these excuses. But this is how the Kingdom of Heaven is. The king sends out an army to destroy the wicked. As King in this parable, God too will destroy the wicked. There is no place in the kingdom for evil and sin. And as much as we would like to believe that everyone will be able to enter the feast, those who remain in their sin will be left out. For as Jesus finishes the story we see that while everyone is invited to God's party, not everyone stays in.

Jesus tells us that the king throws the doors to the party wide open and invites everyone in. There is no longer any cover charge or waiting in line. You don't have to be on the "A" list to get in. Good and bad are invited to join. But it soon becomes clear that while everyone is invited, you have to be wearing the right clothes. It seems, that back in Jesus' times a wealthy host of a wedding feast would provide the guests with clothes to wear for the feast. This would not only alleviate the burden of guests having to acquire expensive outfits, but also show the wealth and generosity of the host. In the parable when the king comes in to see how the party is going, he spots a man who is not wearing the proper wedding attire. Unable to speak to the king in his defense, the man is tied up and thrown outside into a not very nice place. This is how the kingdom of Heaven is.

Jesus says, "Many are called, but few are chosen." Many people were invited but they made excuses. Even when people did come, at least one was not dressed properly. Thus all those who are left out of the Kingdom of Heaven are left out because of their own fault. God invites them, but they make excuses. God brings them in, but they refuse to dress worthily in the righteousness of Christ. God is merciful, wanting all people to be saved and come to the party. This we can take comfort in today, because we know that the King of all creation desires to have us at the marriage feast of His Son. We know this, because we can see His Son on the cross, offered up as a sacrifice to forgive our sins. Forgive our shortcomings of His expectations and forgive our lame excuses. It is through Christ's sacrifice that we are invited, it is through His sacrifice that God gives us the proper clothes to wear. It is through Christ that we may be certain that our loved ones who have died in the faith are rejoicing now at the feast in Heaven just as sure as we gather in His Church.

And so, as Christians, we clothe ourselves in the righteousness that God freely gives to us and live as ones who are at the banquet. No longer do we let sin reign in our lives or make silly excuses to reject God's invitation. Instead, we rejoice that we have been invited to God's party – that we have been saved through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.