



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

October 29, 2023 A.D.

Reformation 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 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 119 & 34)

I will speak of your testimonies before kings, [O Lord,]

and shall not be put to shame.

I will bless the LORD at all times;

his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

My soul makes its boast in the LORD;

let the humble hear and be glad.

Come, O children, listen to me;

I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

The LORD redeems the life of his servants;

none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

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

(John 8:31-36)

³¹So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." ³³They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"

³⁴Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

Athanasian Creed

Whoever desires to be saved must, above all, hold the catholic faith.

Whoever does not keep it whole and undefiled will without doubt perish eternally.

And the catholic faith is this,

that we worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the substance.

For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Holy Spirit is another.

But the Godhead of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is one: the glory equal, the majesty coeternal.

Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit:

the Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, the Holy Spirit uncreated;

the Father infinite, the Son infinite, the Holy Spirit infinite;

the Father eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal.

And yet there are not three Eternals, but one Eternal,

just as there are not three Uncreated or three Infinites, but one Uncreated and one Infinite.

In the same way, the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, the Holy Spirit almighty;

and yet there are not three Almighty, but one Almighty.

So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God;

and yet there are not three Gods, but one God.

So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord;

and yet there are not three Lords, but one Lord.

Just as we are compelled by the Christian truth to acknowledge each distinct person as God and Lord, so also are we prohibited by the catholic religion to say that there are three Gods or Lords.

The Father is not made nor created nor begotten by anyone.

The Son is neither made nor created, but begotten of the Father alone.

The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son, neither made nor created nor begotten, but proceeding.

Thus, there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits.

And in this Trinity none is before or after another; none is greater or less than another; but the whole three persons are coeternal with each other and coequal, so that in all things, as has been stated above, the Trinity in Unity and Unity in Trinity is to be worshiped.

Therefore, whoever desires to be saved must think thus about the Trinity.

But it is also necessary for everlasting salvation that one faithfully believe the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, it is the right faith that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is at the same time both God and man.

He is God, begotten from the substance of the Father before all ages; and He is man, born from the substance of His mother in this age:

perfect God and perfect man, composed of a rational soul and human flesh;

equal to the Father with respect to His divinity, less than the Father with respect to His humanity.

Although He is God and man, He is not two, but one Christ:

one, however, not by the conversion of the divinity into flesh, but by the assumption of the humanity into God;

one altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person.

For as the rational soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ, who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead, ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

At His coming all people will rise again with their bodies and give an account concerning their own deeds.

And those who have done good will enter into eternal life, and those who have done evil into eternal fire.

This is the catholic faith; whoever does not believe it faithfully and firmly cannot be saved.

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

- Persecuted Christians and refugees
- Peace in Europe and throughout the world
- Project 24 students, Yvonne and Lorine

Healing

- Skip (brother of Faye Sieck) - grief issues
- Mariam (granddaughter of Siecks) - upcoming surgery
- Ron Prescott - recovering at home after surgery
- 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

- Verlyn & Paul LeFevere - at home

Mourning, friends and family of

- Ron (brother of Ray McGraw) - died 10/13
- Tom Stock (brother of M. Nanke and S. Easler) - died 10/12
- 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 and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; 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.



✠ *Set Free* ✠

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

At the beginning of WWII, the Polish Army charged German Panzer tanks with swords on horseback. While this may sound crazy to us today, what had happened is that somebody had told them that the German tanks were made out of cardboard. Unfortunately for the Poles, somebody was wrong as they were massacred by their own delusion.

Delusion surely was a factor in the dialogue of our Scripture Lesson today. Up to the point of our text, the conversation proceeded along fairly well. Some of the Jews had even agreed with Jesus on several of His teachings. However, the moment Jesus mentioned that His hearers were slaves, the course of the discussion took a turn for the worse.

“We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone” - a curious claim, considering Israel’s bondage in Egypt, the Babylonian exile, and the current Roman military occupation of Palestine. Yet Jesus had in mind a more important matter: not slavery to other human beings, but slavery to sin.

“Everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin,” Jesus said, something that applies to all people. If Jesus’ original hearers were not receptive to the idea that they had been enslaved by humans, they were even less receptive to the idea that they were slaves to sin. Jesus was simply going too far. As Abraham’s children, they were free. There was no need to be freed by anyone, and there was certainly no need for Jesus.

What a grand delusion! Evidence of their sinfulness abounded, but sin had so inflated their pride they could not accept the truth of Jesus’ word. They were slaves to a power that had tricked them into thinking they were free.

It’s tempting for us to stand in judgment over these Jews, isn’t it? It’s easy to condemn them, as if we were better or smarter than they, as if we would never be so deluded. The temptation surely exists, but we would do well to resist it, for the truth of the matter is that we are just like them. Like those Jews, we too will listen to Jesus about many things. We like to hear about eternal life, about God giving us daily bread, about Jesus being with us always. We even like the idea of His judging wicked people at the end. Yet, when Jesus pushes into the sensitive areas of our lives, we turn Him off. When Jesus calls the Scribes and Pharisees hypocrites, we nod in agreement; but when He refers to our own hypocrisy of singing praise to God’s name in church, and then using those same mouths to spread rumors and gossip in the same place – we look away or into the bulletin. When Jesus speaks of God’s love for all people, we rejoice; but when he brings up our prejudice against people who may not be like us, we bring the discussion to a close.

It’s not that we deny our sins. We’re willing to admit we behave wrongly. But call us slaves? That’s an insult. We tell ourselves, “I can stop doing that sin whenever I want. I just need to try harder-that’s all. I can conquer it. I’m not enslaved; I’m in control of my life.” But this is often nothing more than a deadly delusion!

We are slaves of sin. We can’t stop. In our natural state since the fall of man. As William Barclay put it, “The point is that the man who sins does not do what he likes; he does what sin likes”.

How we would like to be free, but sin holds us captive. And captives we would remain were it not for the boundless grace of our Triune God. Seeing our wretched condition, our slavery to sin, God sent the incarnate Word, His Holy Son. As the very Son of God, Jesus has the authority to free us from our slavery. Although He committed no sin of His own, He allowed Himself to be

made a prisoner of our sin on the cross. Although He was free to turn away from that hideous death at any time, He willingly offered Himself as the sacrifice. Therefore, He bought freedom for the world with His holy, precious blood. For all our sins - even the most private sins we are reluctant to confess - Christ gave Himself; and by that gift we are freed from their damning curse.

Now if our freedom had resulted in the eternal loss of the guiltless Savior, it would be a most tragic end. But the Son of God did not remain in death; He broke free of that prison. He arose so that all people could be offered new life.

In Baptism, Christ's gracious kingdom has extended to you. The heavy chains of your slavery to sin have been cast into the depths of those holy waters, taking your old, sinful self down with them. Out of that water the Spirit raises a new person - righteous and holy before the Father, not by your own deeds of obedience, but by the freeing deeds of Jesus in your place. You are unleashed from sin's shackles, a slave no more. In Baptism, the Son has set you free, and when the Son sets you free, you are free indeed!

But you will remain free only as the Word of Life remains in you through faith. Jesus said, *"If you abide in my Word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."* We do not face this task unopposed. Satan has not forgotten about you. Christ conquered sin on the cross, but the devil is still active. Daily he tempts us. Daily he speaks the lie that freedom means being your own master. Daily sin works to enlarge our pride so that it becomes harder to confess our sins. Daily our culture obscures the need for a Savior. Daily the battle to re-enslave us is waged. But Jesus provides the weapon for daily victory: His Word, which fortifies our faith and trust in Him.

That's what Jesus meant by calling us to continue in His Word. As our culture becomes less and less Christian every day, it is becoming more and more apparent that Christians need to be in the Word of God every day - through faithful use of the written Word and regular dining at the Lord's Table. Jesus loosens sin's grip on the baptized. This is our Reformation heritage. As Martin Luther would say: repentance and faith are not once-in-a-while actions, but rather the entire life and attitude of the Christian on earth.

Abiding in the saving Word of Jesus through-out our lives is our only hope, for sin's delusion is terrible and deadly. To shatter this delusion, Jesus reveals the truth of salvation that has been so clearly proclaimed in His Church since the Reformation - the truth that God's freedom is yours by grace alone, received through faith alone, revealed in Scripture alone. This is the truth of God's Word and the truth that makes you free. Amen.

