



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

November 5, 2023 A.D.

All Saints' 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 31*

In you, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame;

in your righteousness deliver me.

For you are my rock and my fortress;

and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me.

Into your hand I commit my spirit;

you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

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 Nicene Creed. Everyone else may continue the service as printed....

Scripture Lesson

I John 3:1-3

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Sermon ✠ *A Saintly Reunion* ✠ *(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

Entrusting into God's Care

- Dale & Bernice Stonewall - moving to VA
- Father of Dawn Thomas - hospice care
- Persecuted Christians and refugees
- Peace in Europe and throughout the world
- Project 24 students, Yvonne and Lorine

Healing

- Kelly Johnson - healing
- Jim (friend of Dave Johnson) - cancer treatment
- Philip Hackbardt - upcoming surgery 11/7
- Bonnie Breiholz - upcoming surgery 11/9
- Ron Prescott - recovering at home after surgery
- Rick Foreman - recovering after surgery
- Ethel Doehrmann - immunotherapy treatment
- Doug Knutson - immunotherapy treatment
- Deb Heitland - health issues
- Abi Clark - health issues

Homebound

- Chuck Stoelting - Garnet Place

Mourning, friends and family of

- Glennys Smith (sister of Betty Happel) - died 10/28
- Ron (brother of Ray McGraw) - died 10/13

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

We give thanks to God for the lives and faiths of the faithful departed:

Valerie Koelper	Job 19:25-27
Joyce Fritz	Matthew 11:28
Norm Rutz	Romans 8:31-39
Melba Davison	John 14:1-3
Wayne Schilling	2 Corinthians 1:3-5
Stephen Stepanek	1 Thessalonians 4:13
Norma Sirotiak	John 3:16
Karen Schaub	John 14:5-6
Alta Dort	John 5:24
Larry Easler	Joshua 24:15b
Tom Stock	Philippians 4:10-13

Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one communion, the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that, together with them, we may come to the unspeakable joys You have prepared for those who love You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever...

Amen.

Concluding Prayers

Lord God, our Shepherd, You gather the lambs of Your flock into the arms of Your mercy and bring them home. Comfort us with the certain hope of the resurrection to everlasting life and a joyful reunion with those we love who have died in the faith; 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.



✠ *A Saintly Reunion* ✠

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

This weekend, with many Christians around the world, we celebrate all Saints' Sunday - a day where we remember those who have gone before us in the faith. A day where we give thanks to God for all of our departed loved ones who filled our lives with good things. But as we do this, it may be worth asking ourselves just what exactly do we mean by a "saint"? After all, there can be a lot of confusion around that term these days. For there are some who say the saints are those who the Church says are saints. Others say the saints are those who have died, yet led exceptionally good lives while they were living. While still others might just say a saint is anyone who had died or even a football player from New Orleans.

Well, I once read that if you really want to know what a church believes and teaches, go and attend a funeral there. For when that church gathers to mourn the passing of one of their own, you can clearly see their faith and the impact it has for its members. At a funeral in the church, you are right there where the rubber hits the road. And if you ever have been to a funeral here at Bethany, you might notice something that those outside of the church would consider strange. You might notice that we do not spend a lot of time talking about the deceased. The reason being is that St. Paul tells us in Romans that all men and women have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Even those people who have done an amazing amount of good works, even those whom the church, or anyone else, has declared to be a saint, even our beloved family and friends – all of us, our sinners. We all disobey God and have thoughts, and say things, and do things that are anything but saintly. And if we are to be honest at a funeral, or any other time for that matter, if we want to talk about works of people, not only do we need to share the good things people have done, we also have to talk about the bad. To be honest, we need to acknowledge our sinful works only bring about trouble and death.

So at a funeral here at Bethany and at many other churches, instead of focusing on the works of people, we talk about the work of God. But not just any work. Showing how God made the world and still takes care of it today, impacts how we live, but does not save us or bring us comfort when we deal with death. Rather, we focus on God's work where we clearly see His amazing love for His creation. We talk about how despite our sinfulness, out of His infinite love He sent His only Son Jesus into this finite world to be our Savior. We talk about how He who had no sin, took our sin upon Himself when He was lifted up on the cross to die as a sacrifice in our place. When we are at a funeral facing death, or when we face any sort of sin or trouble for that matter, comfort does not come from the works of men, or any saint, but only comes from Jesus, who loved the world, who loved each one of us so much, that He willingly gave His life on the cross for it.

This is the love that our Heavenly Father has given to the world and that St. John writes about in our Scripture lesson when he says, "[Behold] what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are!" Our actions, our thoughts, our words do not make us children of God, let alone saints. It's God's love. God's love makes us His children. God's love found in Jesus Christ and manifested on the cross makes those whom we mourn at funerals, those whom we remember today, not lost and condemned sinners, but His forgiven saints.

And it's His love, that makes all of us His children and His saints, that also gives us hope. Hope at a funeral. Hope when we miss our loved ones who have died. Hope that one day, because of God's love that has made all believers His children, there will be an amazing family reunion.

Having been made God's children through His love, Christians throughout all time are brothers and sisters in Christ. And like families everywhere today, there is often a separation in our church family. Sometimes we are separated by distance. Sometimes by borders or beliefs. Today we remember that we are often separated by sin and death. But just as families have reunions, we have the great promise that all who have shared in Christ's death, will share in His resurrection. And when He comes again, and His saints rise to new life, there will be a family reunion the likes of which creation has never seen. An eternal reunion that we will never want to nor have to leave.

We have just a foretaste of this family reunion whenever we come to the Lord's Table to receive communion. In a very real and meaningful way we are reunited with our loved ones who are resting with Christ in death when we receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus. Those who have had their robes washed in the blood of the Lamb are truly with Him in heaven, as we are with Him when we receive His body and blood for our forgiveness.

When we remember our loved ones there can be, and often is, sadness over what sin and death has brought. But we nevertheless give thanks to God for His children – the saints living and departed. Not for the things that they have done in life. But for what God has done through them. We give thanks for the lives of those whom we remember as we look forward to that great and glorious day when Christ returns and brings us to our family reunion with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Amen.

