



# Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

**January 21, 2024 A.D.**

**Third Sunday after the Epiphany**

*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 13*

From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
**the name of the LORD is to be praised!**  
Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD,  
**praise the name of the LORD!**  
Blessèd be the name of the LORD  
**from this time forth and forevermore!**  
The LORD is high above all nations,  
**and his glory above the heavens!**  
He raises the poor from the dust  
**and lifts the needy from the ash heap,**  
to make them sit with princes,  
**with the princes of his people.**

*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 Sermons tab and then continue with the Nicene Creed. Everyone else may continue the service as printed....*

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## **Scripture Lesson**

(*Mark 1:14-20*)

<sup>14</sup>After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

<sup>16</sup>Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." <sup>18</sup>And immediately they left their nets and followed him.

<sup>19</sup>And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup>And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

**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**

- Poppy (relative of Mary Nanke) - recovered after hospitalization

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

- Ruth (aunt of Karl Hoech) - hospice care
- Perry School community
- Persecuted Christians and refugees
- Peace in Europe and throughout the world
- Project 24 students, Yvonne and Lorine

### **Healing**

- Charlotte (relative of Emily Kroemer) - cancer
- Sandy (relative of Emily Kroemer) - health issues
- Luke (relative of Knutsons) - hospitalization
- Lucy (granddaughter of Randy & Joni Schmith)- sledding accident
- Mary (mother of Ken Zenor) - hospitalization
- Ray McGraw - recovering after surgery
- Jen (relative of Mary Nanke) - recovering after surgery
- Luci Stoelting - recovering after hospitalization
- Emily Kroemer - health issues
- Kim Neuhaus - recovering after surgery
- Derek (son of Hackbards) - recovering after hospitalization
- Lora Raymon - recovering after surgery
- Carolyn Johnson - recovering after surgery
- Cindy Broadwater - recovering after hospitalization
- Lee Heims - recovering after surgery
- Kelly Johnson - healing
- Philip Hackbardt - recovering after surgery
- Ron Prescott - 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**

- Adam (friend of Cindy Goerd) - died 1/15
- Todd (friend of Rick Foreman) - died 12/23

### **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
- Jordan (grandson of Kim Neuhaus) - IA National Guard

### **Collect of the Day**

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; 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.**



✠ *Life in the Gutter* ✠

One of the most popular forms of literature among young people has always been the comic book. A comic book is a story told using a series of illustrated pictures in frames or panels, usually with very little actual writing in them. Now, what I find interesting about a comic book is how it invites the reader to participate in the story. What I mean by this is that, in a comic book, each frame or picture just shows the reader just one small part of the story. When you go on to the next frame, a lot of things have usually taken place, that the reader has to fill in for themselves. In fact, the space between panels in a comic book is called the “gutter”. And where comics can really

become interesting for people is not only what is in the frames, but how they use their imagination to fill in those gutters.

Today, our Scripture Reading from Mark's Gospel, seems to present to us two frames or panels from God's salvation narrative. In the first panel from our text, we have Jesus traveling along the Sea of Galilee. We have previously been told that Jesus had just been baptized and tempted by Satan and He is now ready to begin His earthly ministry. And in this first panel, if you will, Jesus sees Simon and Andrew fishing and says to them, "*Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.*"

Moving forward, those of us familiar with the Scriptures know that Peter and Andrew and the rest of the disciples became those "fishers of men". We see a man crippled from birth, ask Peter with John for alms as they are walking into the temple in Acts 3. And in this panel, Peter looks right at this man and says, "*I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!*" And the man gets up and goes into the temple with these "fishers of men", praising God.

In the first panel, Jesus says, "*Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.*" And in the next panel, we know this is exactly what happens. But as I'm looking at this, I have to ask myself; As I see Jesus saying, "Follow me" and then see Peter doing the exact type of fishing that Jesus said he would; I have to ask myself, "What happened in that gutter? What happened between the panel where Jesus calls His disciples and the panel where they are fishing for men?!?! And I ask this question because...truth be told, our lives just don't seem to be that easy.

As disciples of Christ trying to share the Gospel in our community, we've never said, "Today we don't have any coffee or cocoa, we're out of sandwiches and Gatorade, the pantry is empty and the comfort dog is taking a nap, but in the name of Jesus repent and believe!" and then everyone runs into the church praising God. It just doesn't seem to be that easy. So, when I read our text and I see the two panels I have to ask, "What happened in that gutter?"

Or on a more personal level, we know that God has called each of us to be His own. (There is that first panel in the story of our lives.) But then there's that next panel, where we are the new creations that God has made us, or will make us, to be. Maybe that panel is us living in our community without hatred, as we love our neighbors as ourselves. Maybe that next panel in our lives is us praying for, and sharing the Gospel with, all of our friends and family who have fallen away from the faith or who have never know Christ as their Savior. Or maybe that next panel is us having the peace of Christ in our lives as we deal with sickness, disappointments, and heartache. Whatever that next panel in our lives is or whatever we want it to be, we look back at that first panel where God had called us to His own and we have to ask, "What happens in the gutter?"

Well, what happened in the gutter for Peter was the entire ministry of Jesus Christ! Between that frame of Peter fishing for fish and that next frame of fishing for men is a lot of failure on the part of Simon Peter, but also a lot of Jesus' work. There is Jesus driving out demons. There in the gutter is Jesus healing Simon's mother-in-law, Jesus cleansing a leper, Jesus walking on water. But even more than these incredible miracles of Jesus' power, there in the gutter of Peter's life story is the love and the humiliation Jesus' cross. There is God's love through Jesus Christ, so that Peter could be forgiven all of his sins and strengthened to a fisher of men.

Between God calling us through the waters of baptism and we becoming whatever it is that God intends us to be, is the ministry of Jesus Christ as well. There, between the first baptismal panel of our lives of faith and us living as Jesus disciples, is Jesus at work – His ministry both then and now. Of course there is the cross and the empty tomb, so that our sins can be forgiven. But

there is also Christ work among us today, as He comes to strengthen and forgive us through His Word and Sacraments.

Don't be discouraged or frustrated as a disciple of Christ today. Looking at the lives of the Andrew and Simon, we see God doing a lot of things to take them from being called to fishing for men. It wasn't easy or smooth sailing for any of them. But God was certainly at work through Jesus Christ. And God is at work in all of our lives today as well. It may not be to move us to become fishers of men. But He is at work through Jesus, baptizing, teaching His Word, coming to us in the sacrament of the altar. God is always there in our lives working through these Means of Grace so that we will have faith in Christ, forgiveness in His name, and be the new creations He has created us to be. Amen.

