



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

February 11, 2024 A.D. The Transfiguration of Our Lord

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 99)

Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain;

for the LORD our God is holy!

The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble!

He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

The LORD is great in Zion;

he is exalted over all the peoples.

Let them praise your great and awesome name!

Holy is he!

The King in his might loves justice.

You have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

Exalt the LORD our God; worship at his footstool!

Holy is he!

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 Sermons tab and then continue with the Apostles' Creed. Everyone else may continue the service as printed....

Scripture Lesson

(Mark 9:2-9)

² And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³ and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴ And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. ⁵ And Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." ⁶ For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷ And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him." ⁸ And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only.

⁹ And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Sermon ✠ *Transfiguring Encouragement* ✠ *(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

Entrusting into God's Care

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

Healing

- Kathy (sister of Mark Holt) - recovering after surgery
- Ron Prescott - health issues
- Betty Happel - recovering after surgery
- Kris Dunn - recovering after surgery
- Luci Stoelting - recovering after hospitalization
- Kevin Hansen - recovering at home after hospitalization
- Ray McGraw - recovering after surgery
- Kim Neuhaus - recovering after surgery
- Lora Raymon - recovering after surgery
- Carolyn Johnson - recovering after surgery

- Cindy Broadwater - recovering after hospitalization
- Kelly Johnson - healing
- Philip Hackbardt - recovering after surgery
- Ethel Doehrmann - immunotherapy treatment
- Doug Knutson - immunotherapy treatment
- Deb Heitland - health issues

Homebound

- Dorothy Freese - Keystone Place

Mourning, friends and family of

- Adam (friend of Cindy Goerd) - died 1/20

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
- Devon (friend of Hedtkes and Chitticks)- deployed to Korea

Collect of the Day

O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King in His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Concluding Prayers

Almighty God and gracious Father, in Your mercy look on those whose increasing years bring them weakness, anxiety, distress, or loneliness. Grant that they may always know care, respect, concern, and understanding. Grant them willing hearts to accept help and, as their strength wanes, increase their faith with the constant assurance of Your love through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

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.



✠ *Transfiguring Encouragement* ✠

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

No one is really sure of what mountain the events of the Transfiguration took place on, we are simply told that it was a “high mountain”. However, the highest mountain in the Holy Land is Mt. Hermon, and it is close to where the events of Mark 8 took place, making it a good candidate. And it was there, on top of that mountain, that the late 19th century biblical scholar Henry Tristram once found himself as the day was ending. He wrote the following description:

As the sun descended a deep ruby flush came over all the scene, and warm purple shadows crept slowly on. The Sea of Galilee was lit up with a delicate greenish-yellow hue. The flush died out in a few minutes, and a pale, steel colored shade succeeded, a long [pyramid shaped] shadow slid down to the eastern foot of Hermon, and crept across the great plain; Damascus was swallowed up by it; it was the shadow of the mountain itself, stretching away for seventy miles across the plain – the most marvelous shadow perhaps to be seen anywhere. The sun underwent strange changes of the shape...now almost square, now like a domed Temple – until at length it slid into the sea and went out like a blue spark.

As Jesus and His inner circle of disciples climbed up the mountain, it is easy to assume that they themselves beheld such an amazing sight. But why go through all of the hassle to get there? We are told in Luke’s Gospel that they went up the mountain to pray, but surely there were other places they could have prayed that didn’t involve a day’s long climb. So why this long climb with these three disciples to this dramatic setting? The answer seems to be, they needed to be encouraged. But not just encouraged by the amazing scenery around them, but most importantly by the amazing scene they were to behold!

Just six days before, Jesus had shocked the disciples with the harsh reality of what was about to take place. He told them about the necessity of the upcoming cross and suffering. In Mark 8:31 we read, “*And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.*” Of course we know that Peter didn’t like hearing this and argued with Jesus, bringing about a terrible rebuke. And then Jesus called the crowds to Himself and told them that if they were to embrace Him as the Messiah, they needed to embrace Him as a suffering Messiah and prepare for a life that included taking up their own crosses.

For those of us who live on this side of the cross, this teaching of Jesus is familiar. It may not be popular among many American Christians, but most have heard it before. But for the crowds, and especially Jesus’ disciples, this was a radical idea – completely at odds with their expectations of the Messiah. It may have been confusing for them and it certainly would have been depressing. And so the Lord seemed to realize that at least some of the disciples needed a little bit of encouragement.

Up on the mountain Jesus was transfigured, or metamorphosed, before their eyes. We read 9:3, “*his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them.*” Matthew tells us that Jesus’ face shone like the sun (Matthew 17:2). In this moment the veil of Jesus’ humanity was lifted so that the disciples could clearly see His divinity. The glory of Jesus as the Son of God was always there, it was just so often hidden behind the human nature that He took

upon Himself. It seemed to be hidden with all of the talk about suffering and crosses. But now, without giving up His humanity or His suffering servanthood, Jesus showed the disciples His eternal and divine nature. It was at once both a glimpse back in time to before Jesus was a man and a look forward to Jesus' future glory. If the scenery at the top of the mountain was awe inspiring, how much more what Peter, James, and John beheld when they gazed upon our Lord!

This moment of Jesus' transfiguration was something that the disciples would hold on to for encouragement. To be sure, there were moments when they seemed to forget this sight of Jesus' awe-inspiring divinity, especially in those moments of suffering and death around the cross. But overall the transfiguration would bring peace and hope in the dark moments of their lives and their ministry for years to come. In the Gospel that bears his name, John would write decades later, *"We have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father"* (John 1:14). Peter likewise would write in his second letter, *"For we do not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to Him by the Majestic Glory, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,' we ourselves heard this very voice from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain"* (II Peter 1:16-18).

I think that most of us would agree that we, like Jesus' disciples in the Gospel of Mark, could all use a little bit of encouragement in our lives today. But where can we find it?

Hearing of Tristram's description of the sunset on Mt. Hermon, we might be drawn into nature to be refreshed and encouraged. But while being outside and active in nature can be good for the soul, not everyone can do that and it certainly has it's limits. (After climbing the mountain, you eventually have to come back down – often to the same problems that sent you up in the first place!)

So instead, when we need encouragement, let us not just embrace the beauty of God's creation, or even the wisdom of this world. Taking a cue from the disciples, let us embrace Wisdom Himself and the Creator of this world. Let us embrace Jesus as we see Him on that mountain of transfiguration. For our risen Lord does not want us to be miserable. He may allow suffering to come to us, but He always wants to encourage us as well. And He does this by bringing us to faith in Him as our Lord and Savior. But not just as a Lord who rules over a part of creation, but as the Son of God who rulers over all of creation! And more than that, the divine King of Creation who suffered and died for us. And it is there, in believing in the love of God through the cross Jesus, that we can always find encouragement in what can be a dark and troubling world. Encouragement to keep God's commandments no matter how we have failed in the past. Encouragement to love and serve one another in any situation. Encouragement in the midst of broken relationships and broken dreams and broken lives. There at the cross of our suffering Lord, where we so clearly see God's love for us, we can always find the encouragement and strength to carry our own crosses wherever He may lead us.

And now may our Lord Jesus Christ, who was gloriously transfigured before the disciples to encourage them, also bless you with His love and encouragement today and forever. Amen.