



# Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

**February 18, 2024 A.D.**

**The First Sunday in Lent**

*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 91*

When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble;

**I will rescue him and honor him.**

With long life I will satisfy him

**and show him my salvation.**

Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—

**the Most High, who is my refuge—**

no evil shall be allowed to befall you,

**no plague come near your tent.**

For he will command his angels concerning you

**to guard you in all your ways.**

On their hands they will bear you up,

**lest you strike your foot against a stone.**

You will tread on the lion and the adder;

**the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.**

*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....*

## Scripture Lesson

(Mark 1:9-15)

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

<sup>12</sup>The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

<sup>14</sup>Now 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."

## Sermon

✠ Baptism and Temptation ✠ *(A copy is included at the end of this service.)*

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## 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**

- Doug Knutson - immunotherapy treatment

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

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

#### **Healing**

- Keith (relative of Mary Nanke) - test/health issues
- Aaron Moffett - recovering after eye surgery
- Marvie Foreman - upcoming surgery 2/21
- Luke (nephew of Sheryl Knutson) - in ICU in critical condition
- 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
- Deb Heitland - health issues

#### **Homebound**

- Verlyn & Paul LeFevere

**Mourning, friends and family of**

- Alice Hoffmeier (friend of Bethany Lutheran) - died 2/4
- 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 Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; 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.**



## ✠ Baptism and Temptation ✠

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

Mark, in his Gospel, closely connects Jesus' Baptism with His temptation. He writes that after His Baptism, the Spirit immediately hurled Jesus into the wilderness, where Satan tempted Him for 40 days. The word "immediately" connects these two events. Here's what happened:

Jesus's earthly ministry began when He was baptized by John in the Jordan River and this was a baptism for sinners. And when Jesus came out of the water, an amazing cosmic event took place. Mark writes that Jesus saw the heavens "*torn open and the Spirit descending on Him like a dove*". As Jesus sees this, He hears God the Father say, "*You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.*"

The Father says this because Jesus has set in motion His messianic work to save sinners. He is baptized with the sinners' Baptism. He has come to be joined to our sinful condition. This pleased the Father and the Holy Spirit is also involved in all of this as He now descends upon Jesus, anointing Him for His work ahead.

Jesus's Baptism, therefore was a huge inaugural event. The Baptism of our Lord is a very significant part of God's plan of salvation. Jesus insisted on being baptized with sinners and the Father commends and the Holy Spirit anoints Him for it, The messianic covenant, made long ago by Jeremiah and other prophets, is now being fulfilled!

Immediately after this Baptism, Mark writes, the Spirit "hurls" or "drives" Jesus into the wilderness. The words really read like pushing a boxer into the ring to take on His adversary. Matthew and Luke also make this connection between Jesus' baptism and temptation, but Mark, by omitting the details of the temptation, really drives the point home.

If Jesus' Baptism was the announcement that the Messiah had come to fulfill the covenant God made to save sinners, then Jesus being hurled into the desert was a declaration of war against Satan and the forces of evil. Yes, God had come to take on and defeat the devil!

Once a declaration of war is issued, it is going to happen. You're committed! In the United States, it takes a two-thirds vote of Congress to declare war against an enemy. In the battle against sin and evil, there's unanimous consent of the Trinity - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - at the Baptism of Jesus. The evil enemy will be attacked and the Holy Spirit immediately drives Jesus into the wilderness to take on the devil.

But it is a very strange battle plan. Mark's account simply says that out in the wild Satan was tempting Jesus for forty days. Imagine what a spiritually immature Peter might have said during this. Perhaps something like, "Come on, God. Knock this guy out! Don't put up with this. He's no match for you!" Yet Jesus suffers Satan's temptations for forty days.

He does this because it's God's plan to save sinners. Jesus must suffer temptation with and for us. He is, after all, the promised Messiah who took the place of Israel, which fell into sin and unbelief. The Old Testament tells us that the people of Israel yielded to temptation, refused to believe that the Lord really could, really would bring them into the Promised Land. They had to wander forty years in the wilderness as a result. But Jesus never yielded. He never fell to temptation. He trusted that God would provide for Him. The writer to the Hebrews says He was "*tempted in every way, just as we are yet He did not sin*".

After the forty days, however, the devil didn't stop. Luke writes that the devil "*departed from him until an opportune time*" (Lk 4:13). He would hide his attacks. He would come at Jesus as he did through Peter during his earthly ministry. As he did at the cross, when hecklers taunted,

“Save yourself, and come down from the cross!” (Mk 15:30). All were Satan’s attacks, his temptations to abandon the mission to save sinful humankind.

That final attack on Jesus was at the cross, where the war had its crucial battle. There, Jesus’ Baptism would reach its fulfillment. When Jesus says, “It is finished” and breathes His last, the battle is over; the war is won. He descends into hell, as Paul writes, to make a public spectacle of Satan and his evil angels, triumphing over them by the cross”. After the triumphal procession in hell, Jesus rose from the dead on the third day: His resurrection announcing to the world God’s victory over sin, death, and, yes, the devil!

So when we are tempted by the devil today, we can say, “Get behind me Satan! I am a baptized child of God!” because your baptism gives you this promise of victory. Jesus’ baptism resulted in the defeat of Satan. Your baptism into Jesus’ death and resurrection promises the same for you.

When the devil tempts you to despair, thinking life is hopeless, when he tempts you to indulge your sinful nature, say, “Get behind me, Satan! I’m baptized!” And, when you fall and he accuses you of guilt before God, say, “Get behind me, Satan! I’m baptized!” Therefore, when you face any of these attacks, you can confidently say, "Get behind me, Satan! I'm baptized!"

However, we must not forget that a time is coming when you’ll no longer need such a strategy. Jesus has promised to rend the heavens again and come down a second time. When that happens, the devil will no longer be on the prowl. He will be cast from the earth and “thrown into the lake of fire” (Rev 20: 14). But until that time, we do well, in the face of Satan’s temptations, to look to the promise of Jesus’ victory in our Baptism. Amen.

