



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

February 25, 2024 A.D.

Second 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 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 Psalms 25 & 115)

Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.

You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD!

He is their help and their shield.

The LORD has remembered us; he will bless us;
he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron;
he will bless those who fear the LORD, both the small and the great.

We will bless the LORD from this time forth and forevermore.

Praise the LORD!

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 5:1-18)

After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be healed?” The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me.” Jesus said to him, “Get up, take up your bed, and walk.” And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked.

Now that day was the Sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed.” But he answered them, “The man who

healed me, that man said to me, ‘Take up your bed, and walk.’” They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Take up your bed and walk’?” Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.” The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him. And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. But Jesus answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I am working.”

This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

Sermon ✠ Healed? ✠ *(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

- Marvie Foreman - recovering after surgery
- Patrick McCarley - recovering after surgery
- Harold Schoen - recovering after surgery
- Scott (nephew of Schumachers) - injuries after a fall
- Luci Stoelting - recovering after hospitalization
- Keith (relative of Mary Nanke) - hospitalization
- Aaron Moffett - recovering after eye surgery
- Kathy (sister of Mark Holt) - recovering after surgery
- Ron Prescott - health issues
- Betty Happel - recovering after surgery
- Kris Dunn - recovering after surgery
- 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 Doehermann - immunotherapy treatment
- Deb Heitland - health issues

Homebound

- Chuck Stoelting - Garnet Place

Mourning, friends and family of

- Jim (relative of Brit Stepanek) - died 2/20
- Luke (nephew of Sheryl Knutson) - died 2/15
- Alice Hoffmeier (friend of Bethany Lutheran) - died 2/4

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

Let us pray... O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; 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.



✠ *Healed?* ✠

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

In January of 1998 I began working an internship with the chaplain's office at Holland Hospital in Michigan. Since that time, I have visited countless people in hospitals from Pennsylvania to right here in Iowa, this morning. I have seen people before surgery and after surgery. I've visited with people at the beginning of life in the maternity ward; people in the ICU and hospice at the end of life; and everywhere in between including the cafeteria and the operating room. I've never been employed by a hospital, but I've spent a considerable amount of time in them during my ministry. And in all of that time, I have never, not once (as far as I can recall), ever asked someone if "they want to be healed".

The reason for that is it seems to be a ridiculous question. "Do you want to be healed"? Who doesn't? It's like asking if you want to be happy. Of course, there might be different things that make each one of us happy – some might be happy when we're eating steak on a sunny day, others might be happy eating a salad in the rain. But at the end of the day, almost by definition, we all want to be happy. And I think most people in normal circumstances want to be healed. So, "Do you want to be healed" seems to be a silly question, but this is exactly what Jesus asks in our Scripture reading today.

Jesus was in Jerusalem for a feast, possibly the Feast of Booths, or the Feast of the New Year. And as Jesus was around the northern wall of the temple, He saw a man waiting by the Pool of Bethesda. Of course, we know from our text that this man had been unable to walk for 38 years. So, Jesus' question to him, "Do you want to be healed?", must have seemed a little obvious to everyone there. Of course he wanted to be healed, in fact, that was why he was at the Pool of Bethesda in the first place.

You see, there was a tradition about this particular pool. Because it was fed by a spring, every now and again the water in the pool would sort of ripple or bubble. But many at that time believed that this disturbance in the calm waters of the pool was caused by an angel from heaven stirring the waters. And tradition held that if you were the first in the pool after it started bubbling, you would be healed of whatever ailments you had.

So when Jesus asks this man if he wants to be healed, this man is thinking about being healed in the pool and says, "...I have no one to put me in the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going, another steps down before me." Simply put, the man feels that he just can't get down in the water fast enough.

But Jesus isn't interested in these types of traditions and legends, nor is He bound by them. So instead of helping the man into the water, Jesus just speaks His powerful Word. He says, "*Get up, take your bed, and walk.*" And the man is healed and does exactly that.

There may be some of us here today for whom Jesus' question still seems rather ridiculous. Perhaps we are dealing with our own physical or mental ailments. Maybe we've been sick for years and years or have just recently discovered our health is not what it once was. Or perhaps we find ourselves in the midst of broken relationships in our homes, at work, or at school. Again, these relationships may have been trouble for years and years, or maybe we have just suddenly found out that things were not what we thought. And in the midst of these or any other hardship or difficulty that we face in life; in the midst of living in a world that has been ruined by sin and among people who act as sinners do; when Jesus asks, "Do you want to be healed?", we answer, "Of course we do!"

But here is the problem. Wanting to be healed; wanting God to help us in the difficulties that we face in life; wanting God to forgive our sins and grant us eternal life; are we still trying to get down into that pool stirred up by angels? Or are we listening to God? So often in our lives the Word of God gets drowned out and instead of listening to Jesus, we listen to all sorts of other things. The man who couldn't walk for 38 years, he listened to everyone who told him to go into the Pool of Bethesda. But that never got him anywhere. Instead, all this man really needed was to listen to the voice of Jesus telling him to pick up his bed and go.

Today, we cannot expect Jesus to heal us of every disease by simply hearing His voice as it comes to us in the Holy Scriptures. But this Lenten season we can completely expect Jesus to heal us of the greatest, the deadliest disease of sin. For no matter what problems we face in life, behind them all lies sin. Sometimes this is our own in our lives, and at other times it is the sin of others that has ruined the world in which we live. But whatever the sin, Lent reminds us of what our Savior taught, and what our Savior did. Lent reminds us that Jesus suffered and died, so that our sins would be forgiven. With this forgiveness, we have eternal life, and therefore there is no longer a need to be afraid of any disease or problem that may be healed in this life or the next. All of this, Jesus teaches us, is a free gift, given to us without any merit or worthiness on our part.

This Holy Season of Lent, and for all the days of the year, let us ignore the distractions of the this world and listen to the voice our Lord and Savior. Yes, we want to be healed. And by faith, we know that healing always comes from Christ. Amen.

