



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

March 24, 2024 A.D.

Palm 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 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 24 and 118

Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

We bless you from the house of the LORD.

Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?

The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!

Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?

The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!

Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

We bless you from the house of 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 Sermons tab and then continue with the Apostles' Creed. Everyone else may continue the service as printed....

Scripture Lesson

(John 12:12-19)

¹² The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³ So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" ¹⁴ And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

¹⁵ *"Fear not, daughter of Zion;
behold, your king is coming,
sitting on a donkey's colt!"*

¹⁶ His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. ¹⁷ The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. ¹⁸ The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. ¹⁹ So the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him.”

Sermon – ✠ A Good Week ✠ (*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

Thanksgiving

- Hayden (infant daughter of Taylor & Steph Chittick) born 3/17
- Baptism of Noreen (infant daughter of Caleb & Mandy Pfeil)
- Lora Raymon - recovered after surgery
- Harold Schoen - recovered after surgery
- Patrick McCarley - recovered after surgery
- Kelly Johnson - improved health
- Carolyn Johnson - recovered after surgery

Entrusting into God's Care

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

Healing

- Deb Heitland - health issues
- Lisa (daughter of Cheri Miller) - health issues
- Charlie (relative of Barb Deetz) - recovering after surgery
- Erin Wilson - recovering after surgery
- Ken Cook - recovering after hospitalization
- Marvie Foreman - recovering after surgery
- Aaron Moffett - recovering after eye surgery
- Ron Prescott - health issues
- Kris Dunn - recovering after surgery
- Kevin Hansen - recovering at home after hospitalization
- Kim Neuhaus - recovering after surgery
- Cindy Broadwater - recovering after hospitalization
- Ethel Doehrmann - immunotherapy treatment

Homebound

- Chuck Stoelting - Garnet Place

Mourning, friends and family of

- Ruth (aunt of Karl Hoech) - died 2/25

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

Most merciful God, as the people of Jerusalem, with palms in their hands, gathered to greet Your dearly beloved Son when He came into His Holy City, grant that we may ever hail Him as our King and, when He comes again, may go forth to meet Him with trusting and steadfast hearts and follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life; 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

O God, you resist the proud and give grace to the humble. Grant us true humility after the likeness of Your only Son that we may never be arrogant nor prideful and thus provoke your wrath but in all lowliness be made partakers of the gifts of Your grace., through Jesus Christ, our Lord...

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 Good Week ✠

I would suppose that nearly all of us here can relate to having what many call a “bad day”. And while we all can seemingly share in the common experience of having a bad day, the actual event or events that make one day worse than another can vary as much as we ourselves do. They can be everything from what some would consider small problems, such as missing a favorite television show, the thermostat not working, or our dinner burning in the oven - to large, life altering, world changing events. But whether our bad days come from seemingly insignificant events at work or at home, or from events that forever change our lives, bad days remind us that perfect creation that God had made has been ruined.

Looking at the events in the last week of Jesus’ life, there are some who would say that He was not having just a bad day, but a bad week. To be sure, it started out fine. With the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, with all of his disciples praising God, Jesus was had been hailed as a king! This was a fitting response, to say the least, for the One to whom all glory and honor is owed. But by the end of the week, Jesus, who just days ago was hailed as a king, would have His body laid to rest in a tomb. In one week, He had gone from people throwing palm branches and their garments before Him, to being arrested, tried before the high priests, and killed; and not just killed, but crucified! Looking at all of these events, it may be understandable why some would say that this week for Jesus, what we now call Holy Week, was a very bad week for Jesus and His disciples.

But for Jesus, that first Holy Week almost 2000 years ago was not a bad week, but actually a perfect one. For everything that had happened, happened exactly the way He wanted. We read in the Gospels that before He enters Jerusalem, Jesus tells His disciples to go to a village and get a colt that is tied up there. The way He sends His disciples shows us that He knows what is going on, even to the point of where the animal is that He will use to enter the city. As Jesus and His disciples prepared for the Passover meal later that week, Jesus again shows us His divine knowledge and power to control events as He tells His disciples that they will find a man with a jar of water in the city, and it is in his house where they will celebrate the Passover. And finally on that Friday, Jesus’ last words on that cross. “*Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.*” Jesus

was not killed or murdered; Jesus was not a helpless bystander who was swept up in events around Him that were spinning out of control. Rather Jesus was in complete control. Jesus was in control as the sun stopped shining and the curtain in the temple was torn. He was in control when He gave up His life on that cross.

For many, including some Christians, the events of this week are hard to believe. That Jesus comes into Jerusalem as a king, and less than a week later is crucified. And this is exactly what He wants? All of this sounds a bit too much. After all what kind of man or person would want this? Well St. Paul in his letter to the church in Philippi, answers the question, “What kind of man would want this?” He writes,

[Christ Jesus,] ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross (Philippians 2:6-8).

Paul makes it very clear to all who read his letter that Jesus Christ is no ordinary man, but is also God. He does not say that Jesus was like God or that He simply had the appearance of God. Rather Paul writes that Jesus is God. But contrary to what one might expect, He did not cling to or hold on to the power and authority that belonged to Him as God, but rather gave them up, taking upon Himself the form of a servant. This sacrifice of our Lord and Savior did not just take place on the cross, it started at conception when Christ gave up His divine glory in humility for the benefit of others.

This is a concept that is as foreign to us today as it was back in Paul’s time. The city of Philippi, where this letter of Paul was sent, was largely populated by ex-Roman soldiers. As you can imagine the citizens of Philippi were a proud people, not used to serving but being served. They did not give to others freely, but they took what they wanted and when they needed it. You might be saying to yourself this kind of attitude sounds familiar. Today we are much more familiar with people grabbing power than living a life of service to others. It definitely seems that an attitude of service is hard to come by these days.

Yet St. Paul holds up the perfect picture of a man whose attitude is nothing but service. Paul holds up the man who is true God, Christ Jesus. Jesus Christ came to serve knowing full well that one day people would be waving palm branches at Him, and the next they would be waving whips and clubs. He gives us this service despite knowing that we may praise Him now, only to go sin against Him with our lips, with your bodies and with your minds later on. And His service to all those who sin against God took Him to this week and to the shame of the cross so that they would not have to suffer the deadly consequences of their sin, but may be forgiven. This attitude of service that Jesus had was completely natural for Him, because in addition to being man, He is also God. A God who is perfectly just, but also a God who loves us perfectly.

And while it is Christ’s humble service to us that forgives us our sin and turns God’s wrath away from us, it is the love of God that caused Christ to take on the form of a servant that gets us through the bad days, weeks, and maybe even years that we have in life. Because if Christ would give up so much so that we would not be left alone with our sin, He WILL NOT leave us alone when the heat is not working or we’re eating a burned dinner, or even when we are facing death and hell itself. Amen.

And now may the peace of God that surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.