



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

March 31, 2024 A.D.

Easter 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 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

Psalm 16

Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

² I say to the LORD, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.”

³ As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.

⁴ The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply;
their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips.

⁵ The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

⁶ The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

⁷ I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

⁸ I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.

¹⁰ For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.

¹¹ You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

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 Nicene Creed. Everyone else may continue the service as printed....

Scripture Lesson

(Mark 16:1-8)

When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ² And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³ And they were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?” ⁴ And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. ⁵ And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. ⁶ And he said to them,

“Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.” ⁸ And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Sermon

✠ Easter Living ✠ *(A copy is included at the end of this service.)*

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

- Easter Sunday

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

- Tina Freese - upcoming surgery 4/1
- Chuck Stoelting - recovering after hospitalization
- Joseph (relative of Angie Yuza) - hospitalization
- Bonnie Bubke - recovering after hospitalization
- 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

- Candi Engel - Heritage Care Center

Serving Our Country

- Amber (daughter of Ann Balvanz) - US Army, stationed in RI
- 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

Almighty God the Father, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Concluding Prayers

Heavenly Father, God of all grace, govern our hearts that we may never forget Your blessings but steadfastly thank and praise You for all Your goodness in this life until, with all Your saints, we praise You eternally in Your heavenly kingdom. 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.



✠ Easter Living ✠

Most of you have heard the expression, "You don't know what you have, until it is gone." Well at Easter, we celebrate the most important event in human history, as well as the most important event in each of our lives – the resurrection of Jesus Christ. But let's take a few moments today and think about what our lives would be like right now if this had not taken place. If instead of celebrating Easter Sunday, we were left on Good Friday with Christ's body still in the tomb.

This was no imaginary exercise for the women in our Scripture reading. The two Marys and Salome went to the tomb of Jesus early in the morning on the first day of the week, believing that Jesus was dead. They went to the tomb to finish their burial rituals and they worried about who would roll away the stone from the entrance of the tomb. While terribly sad, this was all too ordinary for these women. They were familiar with death to be sure, and now that Jesus had died they were just doing what everyone does when someone dies: Anoint the body; Pay their respects; Worry about how they would get into the tomb to do all these things.

If we take their beliefs as they woke up that first Easter and make them our own, what would our lives be like? What would our worries be on the first day of the week? If not, "who would roll a stone away", well then maybe the economy or our own personal finances. Perhaps we would worry about our families, not just providing for them, but what will happen to them in the future as our children and grandchildren grow up. Maybe we would worry about ourselves.

Worry about getting all of the things that will make us happy or what the future has in store. Worry about this ache or pain in the morning. Or this test from the doctor or the surgery that is coming up.

Without the resurrection, what would our lives be like when we go to the graves of our loved ones? Would we weep that the time they were with us was far too short? Perhaps we would hope that their good works outweighed their bad so that they might be happy, or at least not suffering, wherever they are now. Maybe we would worry about, not who will roll away the stone from the grave, but what will happen when we enter the grave ourselves. Hoping to be good enough for whatever might lie ahead in death. And that those whom we leave behind will be able to deal with our absence.

I believe that is entirely possible that this is what our lives would be like if Christ had not been raised from the dead. But I also *know* that this *is* how many of our lives actually are today; filled with worry and concern about what is happening today and what awaits tomorrow. Filled with worry and concern for ourselves and for those who are closest to us. And if your life *is* like this now, or if it is like this at certain times or when certain things take place, then hear and believe the rest of what St. Mark says happened when those women went to Jesus' tomb:

And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen; He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. (Mark 16:5-6)

Hearing this Good News of Jesus' resurrection let's not pretend any longer that Christ has not risen. But also let us not live any longer as He has not risen! For Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and St. Paul all tell us that Christ has risen and is alive. The women at the tomb, Cephas, the disciples, and hundreds of others have seen that our Lord and Savior is alive!

Living with the resurrected Christ, there is no longer any need to worry about our sins against God or one another. He died for those sins and His resurrection shows us His sacrifice has completely paid for them. Therefore, no longer do we even need to worry about death. For we have the sure and certain hope that if we are united with Christ in a death like His, that is in Holy Baptism, then we will certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His!

And this resurrection of Christ impacts our lives beyond the worries and cares concerning sin and death. It reaches into our everyday, what some would say our "ordinary" lives as well. For if God would send His Son Jesus to suffer and die for our sin and raise Him up for our forgiveness; if Christ conquered death so that we too might live; why would we believe that He would do nothing but the best for us when there is a stone to be rolled away? Why would we think that God's power and love that has defeated our greatest of enemies, would not come to us when we are lonely or when we lie on an operating table or when we go into a future that only He can see? The fact of the matter is, that our resurrected Lord does not leave us during these times. If our sin and death cannot keep God's love in Christ Jesus away from us, then there is nothing in heaven or on earth or in Hell that can.

As we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, I want to invite all of you to live with hope and comfort in this life. I want to invite all of you to cast your sins, your fears of death, into the empty tomb of Christ. To leave your worries, your concerns, your cares with God, the One who loves us and can actually do something about them. This Easter, I want to invite all of you to simply live like Jesus has risen from the grave, because He has. Christ has risen! He has risen indeed, Alleluia! Amen.