



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

April 14, 2024 A.D.

Third Sunday of Easter

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

In your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.
I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up
and have not let my foes rejoice over me.
O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,
and you have healed me.
O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol;
you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.
Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints,
and give thanks to his holy name.
For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime.
Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

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

(1 John 3:1-7)

¹See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

Sermon

✠ *Christ-like* ✠ *(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

- Vic (friend of Ken Armbrecht) - hospice care
- Chuck Stoelting - hospice care
- Mickie Sjullie - employment search
- Persecuted Christians and refugees
- Peace in Europe and throughout the world
- Project 24 students, Yvonne and Lorine

Healing

- David (father of Chris Frampton) - health issues
- Tina Freese - recovering after surgery
- Bonnie Bubke - recovering after hospitalization
- Deb Heitland - health issues
- Erin Wilson - recovering after surgery
- Marvie Foreman - recovering after surgery
- Aaron Moffett - recovering after eye surgery
- Ron Prescott - health issues
- Kris Dunn - recovering after surgery
- Kim Neuhaus - recovering after surgery
- Cindy Broadwater - recovering after hospitalization
- Ethel Doehrmann - immunotherapy treatment

Homebound

- Dorothy Freese - Keystone Place

Mourning, friends and family of

- Rev. Paul Scheidt (Asst. Pastor at Bethany 2000-2010) - died 4/5

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

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, 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.



✠ *Christ-like* ✠

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

It seems that whenever a child is born, there is a parade of relatives and friends who will look at the child and try and figure out who he or she looks like. The shape of the nose, the ears, the cheekbones, the color of the eyes and hair – they all play a part in answering the question of what this child will look like and who they will look like when they grow up.

In our today this morning, the apostle John talks about a similar question. His question however is not what one of our children will look like in the future, rather it is what God’s own children, you and I, will look like in eternity. He writes, “*Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like...*” Shall be like what? What will we look like when Jesus appears again as He has promised? The question actually asks a lot more than just the shape of my eyes and nose in heaven. It’s really asking how my whole eternity will look – and what my life, my future, will look like all the time we wait for Jesus to come back?

When we ask or ponder what children, or anyone for that matter, will look like if the future we are trying to know or predict the future. The problem with this is that we are limited by the fact that we are finite beings living in a earthly world. We see the world through eyes that have the blinders of this present moment and of sin and death on them. We look for a clear picture and see only vague images or shadows. Many times this is a problem that gets us into trouble as we insist that God reveal everything or we’ll believe nothing. We saw this last week in Thomas, who refused to believe what he didn’t see or touch for himself. When troubles touch our lives, we may also become like Job, who demands to know why these afflictions have come upon him.

But God does not explain Himself to us or give in to our stubborn demands. Instead, He points us to Jesus: “*Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; be we know that when [Jesus] appears we shall be like...Him, because we shall see Him as He is.*” God tells us in I John that we shall be like Jesus, because in eternity, we will see Him as He really is. And seeing Jesus, we see our future and we see what we will be.

God tells us that we will be like Jesus and for right now it should be enough to have this hope inside of us. It’s not required that you see everything as it will be or that you know now what will take place in the future. We should be content with having Christ. He is the author that writes the script for our lives. He is the firstborn of the dead and the One who determines what we will

be. He is the glorious One in whom we hope, while we still live in a world stained by sin and death.

While we wait for His return, we should not be surprised or worry when our lives do not take a clear or smooth path into the future. Instead, we are left to trust in the God whose promise and presence is our hope and salvation. Because we are not the painter, we can't always see or make out what's on the canvas of our lives. It seems terribly slow at times, maybe painful, and we aren't sure if anyone is in charge. But God calls us to patience and to wait for His work to unfold.

The God is painting on the canvas of our lives isn't some reflection of our hopes, dreams, priorities, or desires. No, what God is painting on the canvas of our lives is nothing less than Jesus Christ. The old "me" is leaving, and the new "me" arises by the grace of God that comes to us through His Word and Sacraments. That new man or new woman that God has created by His grace looks a lot like Jesus – what we shall be is what He already is. And this is the loving work of God, painting on the canvas of our hearts, identities, and lives.

So as we live out our lives in the midst of a fallen creation, if you feel lost or confused, weary or dismayed by the way things are turning out, remember that you are not the painter of this scene. God is. The image is not a collection of your hopes and dreams but rather of Christ Himself. God is writing and painting Christ on your heart, mind, and life. So that you may be included among the righteous who live not because they see or understand every detail of their lives. But because the righteous live by faith, trusting in Christ and in Christ alone.

And so we all, as individuals, as a congregation, as a church, are encouraged to remain steadfast in our faith in Christ. For we are all works in progress, even though we have already been saved from our sin when Christ died and rose again. But God continues to work upon us as He gives to us grace upon grace each and every day of our lives, until that day when the earth and heavens that we know are no more. When Christ returns, His work will finally be finished and we will be found pure and spotless, free from sin and every trouble, not by the works of our own hands, but by the works of Him who had His hands nailed to the cross.

As parents bring a new child into the family and everyone wants to know who he or she will look like, we already know the only answer that counts – by God's grace we will be like Jesus. We may not see it yet, but that does not mean that the work has not already begun. For now, it's enough to know that our faith makes us God's children. And it is now our calling as we live our lives using the gifts that God has given to us, to also wait for God's work to be completed in us. For we know, that we shall be as He is. Our future is dependent on Christ, it is linked to Christ, and it is revealed in Christ. He will transform our lowly bodies to become like His glorious body. He will finish the painting of our lives so that the work will be done and complete into all eternity. And finally we shall see ourselves as God sees us, and that is the gift of Christ and the paradise of eternity. Amen.

