



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

June 9, 2024 A.D.

The 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

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.

Introit

From Psalm 28

P Blessèd be the LORD!

G For he has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy.

The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped;
my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.

The LORD is the strength of his people;

he is the saving refuge of his anointed.

Oh, save your people and bless your heritage!

Be their shepherd and carry them forever.

*For those with access to the internet, you may now play today's worship video,
located online at www.bethanycr.org/sermons and then continue with the Apostles' Creed.
Everyone else may continue the service as printed...*

Scripture Lesson

(Genesis 3:8-15)

⁸They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.
¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

Sermon – † *First* † (*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

- Graduates
- Deb (sister of Phil Hedtke) - recovered after surgery
- Reese (daughter of Ashley & Austin Cunningham) born 5/31

Entrusting into God’s Care

- Charlotte (relative of Emily Kroemer) - hospice care
- Chuck Stoelting - hospice care
- Mickie Sjullie - employment search

- Nathan & Sarah Federwitz - Lutheran Bible Translators
- Peace in Europe and throughout the world
- Project 24 students, Yvonne and Lorine
- Trinity Lutheran School Principal search

Healing

- Sandy (relative of Emily Kroemer) - skilled care for rehab
- Tim (friend of Pete Larson) - health issues
- Angela Yuza - recovering after surgery
- Joseph (relative of Angela Yuza) - upcoming surgery 6/14
- Arlen Breiholz - recovering after surgery
- Kristi Montague - health issues
- Sharon Ramsey - recovering after surgery
- Deb Heitland - health issues
- Aaron Moffett - recovering after eye surgery
- Ron Prescott - health issues
- Kim Neuhaus - recovering after surgery
- Ethel Doehrmann - immunotherapy treatment

Homebound

- Candi Engel - Heritage Care Center

Mourning, friends and family of

- Jena (friend of Ann Balvanz) - died 5/16

Serving Our Country

- Mallory (friend of Abi Clark) - IA National Guard
- 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

Let us pray.... Almighty and eternal God, Your Son Jesus triumphed over the prince of demons and freed us from bondage to sin. Help us to stand firm against every assault of Satan, and enable us always to do Your will; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Concluding Prayers

Gracious Father, Your Son grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and all people. Bless, guide, and govern the children and young people of Your Church by Your Holy Spirit, that they may grow in grace and in the knowledge on Your Word. Grant that they may serve You well and usefully, developing their talents not for their own sakes but to Your glory and for the welfare of their neighbor. Protect and defend them from all danger and harm, giving Your holy angels charge over them; 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.



✠ **First** ✠

Grace, Mercy, and Peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
Amen.

People always seem to remember the first person to do something. For instance in school we learn who the first person was who sailed around the world, climbed Mt. Everest, or set foot on the Moon. It should come as no surprise then that Adam and Eve are well known by so many. The Bible tells us they were after all the first humans ever to live. If we read a little further in Genesis we find another first for Adam and Eve. In fact their fame as the first humans to live is perhaps only overshadowed by their fall into sin. God had told Adam and Eve that they may eat from any tree in the Garden except the tree in the middle, the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. But of course Satan, taking the form of a serpent deceived them. Satan opened the door for Adam and Eve to doubt and disobey God and they walked right through it. But while most of us are familiar with these “firsts,” there are some others that we usually overlook when talking about Adam and Eve. We tend to forget that Adam and Eve were the first to hear the Gospel, the promise of their savior Jesus Christ. As Christians today we should note this well, and keep it in the front of our minds and hearts, because we are all aware of the consequence of sin, but we like the rest of the world often forget God’s cure for it.

As soon as Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit they heard God walking through the Garden. God’s warning of a sure death rang fresh in their ears as they knew they were now going stand trial before God. Defense lawyers will tell you if you want to fight accusations of a crime being committed you have two choices: deny it completely or say that you did it justly. Adam eventually does both. First, however he tries to find relief from his sin by running away. This is

all too common today among God's people. Instead of running to God when we sin, we run away from Him. Instead of confessing their sin, they avoid the church so they're not reminded of their evilness and maybe God will forget as well. This is as foolish as Adam thinking he could hide in the garden. But when people sin they do foolish things because sin itself is a flight from God making it impossible for us to return to Him by ourselves.

But God comes to sinners and calls out to them, just as He did to Adam. And if Adam was a fool for trying to hide from God, it only gets worse. First, he denies what he did. He was not hiding from God because he has sinned, he was hiding because he was naked. He's telling God who made him without clothes, that he's naked. Trying to deny that any crime was committed however, Adam convicts himself as God asks, "*Who told you that you were naked?*" And so there is nothing left for Adam to do but try and defend his actions and in doing so he blasphemes God and accuses Him of sin.

Adam says "It's that woman that you gave me who gave me who gave me the fruit." It's as if Adam thinks that if God had not made Eve, then he would never have sinned. So really, it's God's fault. Eve does the same thing. She says, "It's the serpent that you made God, that deceived me." So really, everything here is God's fault.

Children must have learned this lesson well from our first parents because we see this defense tactic employed again and again. Husbands and wives defend their adulterous actions by finding fault with the very ones God has given to them. "So really it's not my fault, it's God's!" Every sort of sexual perversion is defended because people say God made us this way. People say they lose control over alcohol, nicotine, or other drugs because of the stress of their jobs, families, or friends that God has given them. Even in God's own church we find those who accuse Him of being the origin of sin. People neglect the Word and Sacrament ministry that God gives to them because the church is too hot or too cold; the service is too early or too late; we don't like the people there or the songs that we sing. And so we essentially say with Adam, "It's your fault God! The man you gave me, the job you gave me, the friends you gave me, the church that you gave me, isn't good enough! If you never would have given me this part of my body or a job or a spouse or home to take care of or a church I would never have sinned."

Does this sound familiar? It should - we hear this in society, in our homes, in our churches, and even in our own mouths. And when we do we realize how hard it is to escape the snare of sin. For this evil is not done with us once we commit the deed. We sink deeper and deeper as we try to run away from God as Adam did. As we try to deny that we have done anything wrong as Adam did. Until finally we are committing the worst of all evil and blaming God for the very sin that we ourselves have brought about.

In such a condition we would expect to hear God say something similar to what he says to the Satan and the serpent. "Cursed are you" and "Your head will be crushed". But wonder of all wonders God did not curse Adam or drive him away. But as Luther says, "God comes in a very soft breeze" to reprimand his beloved child Adam in a fatherly way. God does not bring about the terror of Mt. Sinai to Adam, He does not punish him with more law. But God, seeing the miserable state that Adam is now in, heals Adam's sin with the promise concerning none other than His own Son - Jesus Christ. Speaking to Satan God says there will hate between him and the woman and her offspring will crush his head. Even after Adam and Eve sin they are sought out by God and called to Himself. And when they come, they don't find death, but they find the promise of the offspring, the promise of Christ.

I hear so many people today say that they are looking for God. But far too often, if not always, people are not looking for God, but looking for someone whom they can hide from, or

believe their excuses, or someone to take the blame. But you don't have to look for God, because He comes looking for you. Just as He sought out Adam and Eve in the Garden, God comes to you in the midst of your terrible sin and lies. And if you are repentant, God does not give you the law, He doesn't tell you that you have to do this or that to make up for something, He gives you Christ. His Son on the cross to take away sin. His Son, who pours out His blood for your forgiveness so that you will know that you don't have to run away any more or make excuses any longer. But you may come to Him and know you'll find forgiveness.

When our first parents listened to God, how pleasantly they must have been surprised not to be destroyed, but to be restored. Not to the life which they had lost of course, but restored to the hope of that perfect life once again. And through this faith, they escaped death. They of course still died and are dead for the time being, but because of the promised Son of God Jesus Christ, who would crush the head of the devil, Adam and Eve will rise again to life, just as we ourselves will.

And so when you find yourself hiding from God because of your sin, or denying the sin that you know you committed, or even blaming God for your evil actions, remember Adam and Eve. But when you think of them don't just remember that they were the first people, or they were the first sinners. Remember how they were the first ones who were saved. The first, called back to God by Himself, just as God calls and saves you today through the same Word, through the same faith, by the same Savior, God's Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

