



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

June 23, 2024 A.D.

5th 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.

Psalm

(From Psalm 107)

Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.

He made the storm be still,

and the waves of the sea were hushed.

Then they were glad that the waters were quiet,
and he brought them to their desired haven.

Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,

for his wondrous works to the children of men!

Let them extol him in the congregation of the people,

and praise him in the assembly of the elders.

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

Scripture Lesson

(Mark 4:35-41)

³⁵On that day, when evening had come, [Jesus] said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." ³⁶And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. ³⁷And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. ³⁸But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" ³⁹And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?" ⁴¹And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even wind and sea obey him?"

Sermon

(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

- Sharon Ramsey - recovering after surgery

Entrusting into God's Care

- Charlotte (relative of Emily Kroemer) - 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

Healing

- Ken (brother of Karen Schmidt) - prostate cancer
- Ken Cook - recovering after surgery
- Kristi Montague - recovering after surgery
- 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) - recovering after surgery
- Arlen Breiholz - 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

- Nadine Wax - Hallmar

Mourning, friends and family of

- Merlin (grandfather of Dathan Hinrichs) - died 6/10
- Chuck (husband of Luci) Stoelting - died 6/8
- Marilyn (friend of Hinrichses) - died 6/6

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 God, in Your mercy guide the course of this world so that Your Church may joyfully serve You in godly peace and quietness; 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.



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

The events that are recorded for us in our Gospel lesson are familiar to most of us. Jesus calming the storm is recorded in all of the synoptic gospels and is something we learn and teach about early on in Sunday School. We do this because Jesus calming the storm tells us something about Him. But is Jesus calming the storm Law or Gospel? When we see Him calming the wind and the waves should we feel relieved or should we be terrified?

Put yourself in the boat with the disciples. They were out in the open water as the wind and the waves began to pick up energy. As the storm gathered momentum the disciples became afraid and justifiably so, as the waves came crashing over the side of their boat. If the disciples were not the best of students, many of them were experienced fisherman who no doubt has seen their fair share of storm. So, when they become terrified, we know it was more than a stiff breeze coming in that day.

But in their terror they do an interesting thing. As they cry out to Jesus, they accuse Him. They accused or rebuked Jesus because He didn't intervene on their behalf. The reason they spoke was purely selfish – as they asked, “Do you not care about us”? They were not worried about Jesus, nor the people in the other boats. They were worried about their own skin and in their fear they began to point their fingers at Jesus, the one who could help them, as the cause for their problem.

Now listen to the words you speak when you have your moments of terror. Don't we often turn defensive and accusing as well. Those who have spent any time caring for a loved one with a chronic illness know that when we fear sickness and death, we often turn our frustrations on those who try to help – our family, friends and those in the medical field. When we fear a relationship is in danger we far too often turn to distrust rather than devotion and love. And it's not just other people we lash out against when we are afraid. Often we tell ourselves that God doesn't care and so when immediate danger arises the first word out of our mouth is His name in vain.

Here we see that lack of faith and trust is at the center of it all. With Jesus present, the disciples – and all of us here – really have nothing to fear. Jesus was at complete peace in the boat (He was sleeping after all) and He is just as confident in whatever crisis we find ourselves in today. But of course, our sin enters in and so we doubt.

But then Jesus speaks. “*Peace, be still!*” He utters His perfect and almighty word to still the wind and the waves, creating peace and calm on the earth. And His speaking peace certainly calmed the disciples' fear of the storm as well. Most importantly for us today however, His speaking “peace” calms our fears and worries when we face danger. He speaks “peace” because

His death on the cross has removed the sin of the world that disrupts the harmony of creation. With Christ's word of peace present sin has been removed, Eden is restored - where storms water the earth so it might bring forth its fruits and not destroy parts of His own creation.

But strangely enough though the disciples, even after the storm was calmed, were still afraid. Weren't they in the clear? Jesus just told the wind to stop blowing and the waves to stop crashing into them and they listened! What were they so afraid of now? Well remember, as sinners, we find no comfort in the power of God. We only find comfort and power in God's mercy. After the storm died down, the disciples were still afraid and they said under their breath, "Who is this guy?" A greater terror than the sea was being in the presence of the One true God who could control it and all of creation. As sinners they sensed such a powerful presence could only destroy anything or anyone that was less than holy – and they knew there were.

And they were right in a sense. That without Christ, God would surely destroy anyone who was corrupted by sin. God's power only makes this fact all the more frightening. Our speaking – or lack of it – may sometimes betray the terror we have in God's presence. So, like those fearful disciples in the boat what we truly need is peace.

Today, baptized believer can rest surely, knowing they have God's peace. For the same cross the enabled Jesus to speak peace to the storm is the same cross that enables Jesus to speak, not judgment upon us, but forgiveness and mercy. His power is not something that we need to fear, but something that we can rejoice in, for Christ laid this power aside so that He could die on the cross for the sin of everyone in this church, and everyone in the world.

When Jesus speaks peace to the storm then, though this shows us His power, we also know that He is speaking peace to us. Peace that comes from the forgiveness of our sin. And so as we come into His presence at the baptismal font, or at His table, or in His church, or even in death, we have no reason to fear. We have no reason to fear any of the storms we might face in this life, and we certainly don't need to fear our almighty God. For though God is holy and powerful, His Son Jesus, the Christ, died so we might have peace and have it forever. Amen.

