



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

July 7, 2024 A.D.

The 7th 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 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.

Introit

From Psalms 34 & 132

P Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!

C **Blessèd is the man who takes refuge in him!**

For the LORD has chosen Zion;

he has desired it for his dwelling place:

“This is my resting place forever;

here I will dwell, for I have desired it.

I will abundantly bless her provisions;

I will satisfy her poor with bread.

Her priests I will clothe with salvation,

and her saints will shout for joy.”

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

Scripture Lesson

(Mark 6:1-6)

¹[Jesus] went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ²And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, “Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? ³Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. ⁴And Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household.” ⁵And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. ⁶And he marveled because of their unbelief. And he went about among the villages teaching.

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

Entrusting into God's 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 Cook - recovering after surgery
- Kristi Montague - recovering after surgery
- Angela Yuza - 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

- Verlyn & Paul LeFevere - at home

Mourning, friends and family of

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

Serving Our Country

- Devon (friend of Hedtkes & Chitticks) - deployed to Korea
- 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

Collect of the Day

O God, Your almighty power is made known chiefly in showing mercy. Grant us the fullness of Your grace that we may be called to repentance and made partakers of Your heavenly treasures; through Your Son, 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.



✠ *Mighty Works* ✠

This is the same Jesus whom we read about calming the wind and the waves with a stern, yet simple command. This is the same Jesus who brought back to life the daughter of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. And now when He is in His hometown, among those who watched Him take His first steps, watched Him learn to be a carpenter like His earthly father, and grow into a young man – He could do no mighty work there! Usually a hometown crowd is to be favored. In sports, they always talk about home field advantage in the playoffs. But Jesus did not have home field advantage, in fact when He went home it was just the opposite. His hometown was a tough crowd to please.

The text says that He could not do a mighty work there! Put your nose in the text and that's what you'll see. Jesus, the Son of God, indeed God Himself, the king of all creation, the one who reigns over heaven and earth, could not do any miracles. Does this cause concern for us? Does this worry us? Is the power of Jesus, is the power of God limited? We know that in His ministry there were times when Jesus chose not to do miracles. Luke tells us that when Jesus stood during the last hours of His life before King Herod, as Herod wanted to see Jesus perform some of the miracles that he had heard about, but Jesus did not. Here however, Mark says that Jesus "could do no mighty work". But the problem was not with Jesus, He is indeed the one and only all powerful God. Rather the problem was with the people. It was their lack of faith, the fact that they resisted the man and the message of Jesus so much, that Jesus could do nothing that would save the people from their sin.

Just think about it. If someone has their heart dead set against God no matter what happens, they will lack faith and God will be prevented from working the one miracle that we can be sure of - the miracle of salvation - in our lives. I once heard a professor from Notre Dame speak when

I attended college in Michigan. This professor mentioned that people would often ask him why God just doesn't write, "I exist" up in the sky with clouds or with stars, so that everyone would therefore believe in God. But this professor believed, and I would tend to agree with him, that a miracle like that would be fruitless. After all throughout the Old Testament we read that the Israelites continuously rebelled against God even though they had Moses, Isaiah, Ezekiel, and all of the other prophets sharing God's Word with them and doing mighty acts. God tells Ezekiel, *"Son of man, I send you to the people of Israel, to nations of rebels, who have rebelled against me. They and their fathers have transgressed against me to this very day. The descendants also are impudent and stubborn..."*. With all of the miracles that God had performed throughout the history of Israel, God says that they are still obstinate and stubborn.

And even when God himself became man and told all those around him, "Here I AM. Believe in me and you will be saved." what did they do? Not only did His hometown reject Him. But His own people Him. God did something even better than write, "Here I am" up in the sky, He became a man and told people face to face. And yet their hearts were so hard, that they put Jesus to death.

Now examine your own hearts. It is so easy for those who have been raised in the church to overlook the ways in which God has worked in their lives. And it is impossible for those who do not know Christ, to know the love that God has for them. Is it any wonder then that people's hearts today are becoming hard? That they don't have faith in Christ. That we overlook the power and wonderful mysteries of God everyday, just because the sun in the sky has always been there?

Yet despite the people's stubbornness and their hard hearts, despite their unbelief, Jesus continued to teach. He continued to send out the twelve two by two so that they might proclaim that people should repent. Despite people's sin, Jesus did not give up on them. The Son of God continued to work with the only tool that could budge their stubborn hearts – His Word. No miracles here, just the Word of God. The Word of God that called creation into existence. The Word of God that the prophets and the apostles taught and proclaimed. The Word that turns water into baptism and bread and wine into His body and blood. The Word that shows us our sin – all of our shortcomings and failures - and then shows us our Savior Jesus Christ. And in doing so, shows us just how much God loves even those who sin against Him.

You know it's not all that far from Jesus' hometown to our hometown here in Iowa. WE are people just like the folks there - people who know Jesus and have heard His call to faith. Let us pray that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may respond not with doubt or skepticism, but with an open heart that trusts completely in Him, making Him welcome here among His brothers and sisters and able to perform the greatest work of all – the forgiveness of our sins. Amen.

