



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

The 11th Sunday after Pentecost

August 4, 2024 A.D.

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

From Psalm 78

With upright heart he shepherded them
and guided them with his skillful hand.

He commanded the skies above
and opened the doors of heaven,
and he rained down on them manna to eat
and gave them the grain of heaven.

Man ate of the bread of the angels;
he sent them food in abundance.

For those with access to the internet, you may now play today's worship video, located at www.bethanycr.org/sermons and then continue with the Nicene Creed.

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

Scripture Lesson

(John 6:22-35)

²²On the next day the crowd that remained on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. ²³Other boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. ²⁴So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus.

²⁵When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal." ²⁸Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" ²⁹Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." ³⁰So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What

work do you perform? ³¹Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” ³²Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” ³⁴They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

³⁵Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”

Sermon *(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

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

- Brenda Heims - health issues
- Lee Heims - health issues
- Greg (relative of Pat Krekeler) - recovering after a stroke
- Jim (friend of Dave Johnson) - serious health issue
- Derek (son of Hackbardts) - recovering after surgery
- Pat Krekeler - recovering after hospitalization
- Duane Pfeffer - health issues
- Mary Nanke - recovering after hospitalization
- Sharon Easler - 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

- Nadine Wax - Hallmar

Mourning, friends and family of

- Don (friend of Don Hein) - died 7/16

Serving Our Country

- Devon (friend of Hedtkes & Chitticks) - deployed to Korea
- Mallory (friend of Abi Clark) - IA National Guard
- Amber (dght of Ann Balvanz) - US Army, stationed in Germany
- 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

Merciful Father, You gave Your Son Jesus as the heavenly bread of life. Grant us faith to feast on Him in Your Word and Sacraments that we may be nourished unto life everlasting; through the same 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.



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

In our Gospel lesson today, Jesus tells the crowd, “*Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you*” (John 6:27a). To understand this teaching, it may be helpful to remember some of the events that had just happened in the Gospels. For instance, v.22 of our text tells us that Jesus was teaching the crowd on the day after He had walked on water. When Jesus did this, He eventually helped the disciples in the boat who were struggling against the strong wind, but it seems that His original intent was to show them that He is the One, True God. Job 9:8 says, “[*God*] alone stretched out the heavens and trampled the waves of the sea”. And that second part is exactly what Jesus did when He walked on water.

Also, before that, Jesus fed over 5000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish. Such an amazing meal could easily lead anyone to conclude that the host of such a feast is someone quite special. But Mark’s Gospel tells us that the disciples didn’t quite understand the total significance of Jesus feeding so many people with bread. And the crowds in our text don’t seem to fare any better.

Jesus rebukes them when they follow Him only because they had their stomachs filled when they ate the bread because there was more to this miracle than just eating food. And this is where Jesus teaches, *“Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you.”* When the crowd hears this, they immediately begin to think about all of the works that they must do to labor for the food that endures into eternity. In fact they ask Jesus, *“What must we do, to be of doing the works of God?”* They want to know all of the things that they must do, all of the laws and the regulations they must keep. But Jesus won’t have any of it – He says there are not a whole bunch of things they must do. In fact, there is only one – believe in Jesus. That’s right, the one good work in God’s eyes is not keeping this or that commandment; it is not loving your neighbor as yourself; (as important as those things are), but the only one truly good work in God’s eyes that leads to eternal life – is to believe. Trust in Jesus Christ, who is the true, eternal, and almighty God, for the forgiveness of your sin.

This is what we believe and what we strive for – that is to believe. Because we all know that the perishable things in life won’t last, nor satisfy. So much of what we and the rest of the world works for in life will eventually wear off, wear out, go out of style, get lost, get stale, break, or otherwise fail to maintain our satisfaction. St. Augustine knew this when he prayed, *“God, You have created us for yourself; our heart knows no rest except that it finds its rest in You.”* Remember Jesus’ parable of the rich fool? The man’s fields had brought forth enough crops to set him up for many years, and they did give him pleasure and comfort for a while. But then one night God came to him and said, *“Fool, this night your soul is required of you!”*

We all know that you can’t take perishable things with you when you die. The saying that hearses don’t have luggage racks is true. And even the Scriptures testify to this truth when they say, *“We brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.”* in I Timothy 6. And again in Job 1:21, *“Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I shall return.”*

What’s more, what you see in this life is not all there is to get. We must not only pursue the things of this world. Jesus said in Luke 15, *“Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”* One must, instead, earnestly pursue the things that God sets before us.

Jesus says in Matthew 6, *“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.”* St. also writes in Romans 8:6, *“For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.”*

So instead of looking to all the things that are here today and gone tomorrow to give us peace and happiness, let us turn to the things that will last forever, knowing that God will provide the things of this world that we really need. For in Matthew 7 Jesus says, *“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!”*

Our pursuit in life then, should be of the things that do not perish. To labor for the food that endures is nothing more or less than believing that the Living Bread, Jesus, came down from heaven and has secured life and all its necessities for us. By believing that He did this by laying

down His life on the cross for us. That sacrifice has secured both heaven and all that is truly good in this life for us, because Jesus' death has reconciled us to God, the giver of all good things. Paul writes in Romans 8, "*He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?*"

Let us then hold fast to Jesus, who is the one thing needful now and forever, the one thing that lasts. Jesus suffered and died to atone for our sins. He rose from the dead and is the Bread of Life. He has assured us that because He lives, we never need to be spiritually hungry and have eternal life. Amen.