



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

August 11, 2024 A.D. 12th 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 34)

You open your hand;
you satisfy the desire of every living thing.
Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!
Blessèd is the man who takes refuge in him!
Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints,
for those who fear him have no lack!
The young lions suffer want and hunger;
but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

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

(John 6:35-51)

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. ³⁶But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. ³⁷All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. ³⁸For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

⁴¹So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." ⁴²They said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" ⁴³Jesus answered them, "Do not grumble among yourselves. ⁴⁴No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.

And I will raise him up on the last day. ⁴⁵It is written in the Prophets, ‘And they will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me— ⁴⁶not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

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.

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

- Faye Sieck - recovering after surgery
- LaVonne (mother of Steve Hanchera) - heart issues
- Brenda Heims - health issues
- Lee Heims - health issues
- Greg (relative of Pat Krekeler) - recovering after a stroke
- 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

- Dorothy Freese - Keystone Place

Mourning, friends and family of

- Jim (friend of Dave Johnson) - died 8/8
- 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

Let us pray... Gracious Father, Your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Grant that Christ, the bread of life, may live in us and we in Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Concluding Prayers

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, because of Your tender love toward us sinners You have given us Your Son that, believing in Him, we might have everlasting life. Continue to grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may remain steadfast in this faith to the end and finally come to life everlasting; 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.



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

There is a story of a young man who just graduated from college meeting his elderly neighbor. His neighbor asked him what his plans were, now that he had his new degree. The young man said that he planned on going to law school to become a lawyer. “That’s great”, his neighbor said, “Then what?” The young man said that after he became a lawyer he planned on working hard, saving some money, and starting a family. “That sounds good”, the neighbor replied, “Then what?” The young man said that he and his wife would raise their children, save some money, retire and then travel the world. His elderly neighbor said that retirement is great and traveling is a blessing. But then he asked the young man once again, “And then what?” To which the young man finally said, “I guess I’ll die.” But then his neighbor asked one more time, “And then what?”

Of course, it is good to make plans in life. Who of us would ever get behind the wheel of car without knowing whether or not we’re going across town to the store or across the country on vacation. Making plans, like the young man in the story is just part of being a responsible person. But it has been said that as we get older, life begins to narrow. And as we get older the options that we have, the plans that we make that we can expect to become reality, become fewer and fewer. When you are a child in school or even starting your working life or your family life, the possibilities are numerous, and like the young man you make plans. But as we get older, life begins to narrow down. And if you have spent any amount of time with people who are very close to death, you have seen that life and plans narrow down to that one point that we all come to. That one point of death.

If this sounds bad, or depressing, or discouraging for us, well then take heart. Because there is Good News for us. You see at that one point that all of life narrows down into, stands Jesus Christ. And there He gives us the Good News of salvation. There He answers for us that question, “And then what?”

In our Scripture lesson Jesus is continuing what the Church calls His “Bread of Life Discourse.” You may remember from reading John’s Gospel that Jesus had just finished feeding the 5000 with 5 loaves of bread and a couple of fish. This was a miraculous feeding of God’s people out in the wilderness. But the people don’t know what to make of all this. At first, they are just happy that their stomachs are full. Then they become somewhat confused as to what this miracle means and what Jesus is teaching them. And then in our reading today, the crowds begin to grumble because Jesus said, “*I am the bread that came down from heaven.*”

And so, in our Scripture lesson, Jesus explains to the crowds once again what it means for Him to be the Bread of Life. Jesus tells the crowd to stop grumbling – stop complaining like the Jewish people out in the wilderness during the Exodus. Stop complaining like Elijah running for his life. Just like in those cases, God is at work doing something fantastic for His people. He is coming to them, not just to give them bread for their stomachs, but to give them eternal life.

Jesus says in verse 44 of our text, “*No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day*”. Many people, even many Christians, mistakenly believe that when they die their souls will go up to heaven and be there forever! Jesus teaches us here and elsewhere, however, that there will be a day when the dead will be raised back to life. And those who believe in Him – those who trust in Him for their forgiveness and salvation – will be raised to eternal life.

Jesus is the bread that gives this eternal life. We can't have it by ourselves. We're like the hungry nation of Israel during the Exodus who couldn't feed themselves, but had to rely upon God. But unlike the Jews who ate manna during the Exodus and still died, those who have the bread of life will never die. When we have Jesus Christ, and believe that His suffering, death, and resurrection was for us and for our sins – we have eternal life – and the answer to that question – and then what?

What happens when life begins to narrow in? When our plans come to an end? When we arrive at that one point we all must come to - then what? The answer is, and always has been - Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life. Believing in Him, we begin to see God's plan. We see His birth. We see His cross. We see the empty tomb. We see that even though we die, we will be raised to life and live forever, because Jesus is the Bread of Life. Amen.

And now may the peace of God that surpasses all understanding keep your hearts and minds forever in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen,

