



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

August 18, 2024 A.D.

13th 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.

Psalm

From Psalm 111

P The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.

C **His praise endures forever!**

Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.

Full of splendor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.

He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;
the LORD is gracious and merciful.

He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.

He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever.

Holy and awesome is his name!

For those with access to the internet, you may now play today's worship video, located on Bethany's website (www.bethanycr.org) under the Worship Resources tab and then continue with the Nicene Creed. Everyone else may continue the service as printed....

Scripture Lesson

(Luke 10:25-37)

Behold, a lawyer stood up to put [Jesus] to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read it?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with

all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.”

But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”

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

- Catherine (niece of Janet Hoech) - broken arm
- Kim (relative of Shirley Witte)- cancer
- Elaine Cook - recovering at Cottage Grove after fall
- Doni (relative of Sheryl Knutson) - cancer
- Arlene (relative of Sheryl Knutson) - recovering after fall
- 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
- Sharon Easler - recovering after surgery
- Angela Yuza - recovering after surgery
- Deb Heitland - health issues
- Aaron Moffett - recovering after eye surgery
- Kim Neuhaus - recovering after surgery
- Ethel Doehrmann - immunotherapy treatment

Homebound

- Verlyn & Paul LeFevere - at home

Mourning, friends and family of

- Linda (relative of Bev Hoover) - died 8/11
- Jim (friend of Dave Johnson) - died 8/8

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...Lord Jesus Christ, in Your deep compassion You rescue us from whatever may hurt us. Teach us to love You above all things and to love our neighbors as ourselves; for You live and reign with the Father 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 story of the Good Samaritan is as relevant today as it ever has been. Jesus tells it in response to some questions asked Him by an expert in the Old Testament Law. This expert asks, *“What shall I do to inherit eternal life?”* When Jesus asks him what he thinks, the lawyer responds: *“Love God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind and your neighbor as yourself.”*

The lawyer is probably a little bit surprised when Jesus tells him that he has answered correctly and now finds himself in a bit of a pickle. For the lawyer knows that he has not loved God with all of his strength and certainly not his neighbor as himself. And so as people who are looking for an argument often do when they are confronted with simple facts, the lawyer seeks to argue with Jesus over definitions. *“Who is my neighbor?”* he asks. And then Jesus tells him the parable of the Good Samaritan.

A man is lying half dead along the side of the road. A priest and Levite actually cross over to the other side of the road so that they don’t have to come near him. The actions of this priest would be like a pastor today, on his way home from Sunday service after preaching a beautiful sermon on God’s love and mercy, stepping over some poor, wretched person dying in the street. And with the Levite, it’s as if the Elders, or the Church Council, or the Women’s Guild and everyone who was in church today did the same thing as their hypocritical pastor. But Jesus tells the lawyer that it is a Samaritan who shows the half-dead man mercy.

Samaritans had at one time in the Old Testament had been part of Israel. They were the Northern Kingdom of the Jewish people before Assyria invaded their land. When Assyria had conquered them, some were led off into slavery while others remained in their homeland. With the population dispersed, these Jews began to marry and start families with the people around them, bringing their false gods and religions into their homes. The result was that over time, these Jews became a whole new people, the Samaritans, despised by the Jews who had remained faithful to Yahweh over that same time.

So in the lawyer’s eyes, the priest and the Levite of our story are heroes! They are the good people. The Samaritan on the other hand is the lowest of the low – a pagan traitor to God and His people. Yet hearing the story, the lawyer must admit that it was the Samaritan who: binds up the man’s wounds, places him on his animal, and pays for his care, that proved to be a neighbor. And Jesus tells the lawyer to go and do likewise.

The lawyer must have been shocked and had his self-righteousness kicked right out of him as Jesus never answers his question, yet turns his world upside down. You see Jesus did not want to show the lawyer that everyone should be his neighbor. If He wanted this Jesus would have said that the injured man was Samaritan and the one who helped him was a noble Jewish person. But instead, Jesus says the Samaritan made the injured man his neighbor through his charity. Having argued with Jesus over definitions, the lawyer must now see that to ask, *“Who should I love?”* or *“Who is in and who is out of this group that I have to care for?”* falls far short of God’s will for us. Instead Jesus shows that the better question we must ask, the Godly question we must ask is: *“To whom can I become a neighbor to!?!”* And the lawyer, who must have passed by countless people in need during his life, now realizes that inheriting eternal life by loving your neighbor is not so easy.

Jesus convicts this self-righteous lawyer’s conscience, and He should convict ours as well. For how many people have we passed by along the side of the road, or at school, or at work, or in

our neighborhoods, or even here in this congregation who are in need and we walk right by. And as we walk on by coming up with all kinds of excuses why we should not help, let me just say that God doesn't care much for excuses. He doesn't care if they don't look like you! If they don't talk like you! If they don't work as hard as you! If they're from around here or raised in this church! God demands we love them as ourselves! That we make them our neighbors, not drive them out of our sight! And if we don't, then where do we find ourselves in this parable? We are not the priest or the Levite that walks by on the other side of the road. Oh no my friends, that would be too good. Rather failing to love God and our neighbor we are the ones lying on the side of the road, beaten and stripped by our own sin, spiritually half-dead waiting for the vultures and the wild dogs to finish us off.

Every one of us here fails to love, to forgive, to help and show compassion and mercy to others as the Law of God demands of us. And this sin condemns us, so that no one may be declared righteous by keeping the Law. Dr. Arthur Just from Ft. Wayne writes that the lawyer says, "I will act to love my neighbor as myself; tell me who he is." But Jesus tells that lawyer and us today that we cannot act, for we are dead to sin. Rather we need someone to love us. To show us mercy, to heal us, pay for us, give us lodging and revive us. And this Good Samaritan for all who are dead to sin is the One telling parable, Jesus Christ. Like any Samaritan back in New Testament times, Jesus was and is still despised by the world. But He is the One who fulfills the Law, embodies its' demands of charity, and who brings God's mercy to those of us who so desperately need it. This story does more than just tell us that we should love and have God's compassion for people. It shows us that Jesus has done exactly that for all of us despite our failure to do the same.

And it is only when Christ lives in us, that we are picked up off of the ground, out of our sin and death, and leaving our forgiven failures and sins behind that we can go out and live with charity towards everyone we come across. We do this not motivated by the Law, but strengthened and equipped by God's love through Jesus Christ our Good Samaritan.

Chances are we will never come across a man dying on the side of the road. But we need to keep our eyes open outside of these walls, as well as within them, for people suffering and in need of love and compassion. And when we see them, may we never cross over to the other side of the road! But rather pray for God's strength so that we may imitate Christ and become Good Samaritans ourselves. If there is any group of people in this area to whom people look today and think of the Good Samaritan it should be those of us who gather underneath the cross of Christ. Not because we are holier or smarter than anyone else. Nor because we fear God's wrath if we don't. But because we know what God has done for us through His Son Jesus Christ. He has healed the wounds of our sin and paid for our lodging in Heaven with His own precious blood. And now as Jesus tells us "*You go, and do likewise.*" Amen.

And now may the peace of God that surpasses all understanding keep your hearts and minds forever in Christ, and move your hands and feet to love make everyone your neighbor. Amen.

