



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

August 25, 2024 A.D.

14th 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 26)

O LORD, I love the habitation of your house
and the place where your glory dwells.
Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity,
and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.
Prove me, O LORD, and try me;
test my heart and my mind.

I wash my hands in innocence and go around your altar, O LORD,
proclaiming thanksgiving aloud, and telling all your wondrous deeds.

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 Apostles' Creed. Everyone else may continue the service as printed....

Scripture Lesson

(Mark 7:1-13)

¹When the Pharisees gathered to [Jesus], with some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem, ²they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. ³(For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands, holding to the tradition of the elders, ⁴and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.) ⁵And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" ⁶And he said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written,

*"This people honors me with their lips,
but their heart is far from me;*

*⁷in vain do they worship me,
teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'*

⁸You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.”

⁹And he said to them, “You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! ¹⁰For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’ ¹¹But you say, ‘If a man tells his father or his mother, Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban’ (that is, given to God)— ¹²then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, ¹³thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do.”

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

Thanksgiving

- Sunday School students, teachers and support staff
- Sharon Easler - recovered after surgery
- Aaron Moffett - recovered after eye surgery
- Kim Neuhaus - recovered after surgery

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

- Wilson (son of Luke Viertel) - upcoming surgery 9/4
- Deb Heitland - recovering after surgery
- John Hamm - recovering at St. Luke's Transition Center
- 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
- Pat Krekeler - recovering after hospitalization
- Duane Pfeffer - health issues
- Angela Yuza - recovering after surgery
- Ethel Doehrmann - immunotherapy treatment

Homebound

- Cindy Broadwater - at home

Mourning, friends and family of

- Linda (relative of Bev Hoover) - died 8/11

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

Almighty and merciful God, defend Your Church from all false teaching and error that Your faithful people may confess You to be the only true God and rejoice in Your good gifts of life and salvation; 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

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.

For whatever reason, I have never enjoyed shopping. Maybe it was my mother dragging me all over town as a child as we would go from the grocery store to the pharmacy to the Vet and on and on and on... Maybe it was the back to school shopping that ruined shopping for me, knowing that I was trying on new pants that they would not nearly be as comfortable as my old ones and that summer must surely be over. But whatever the reason, I still do not like to go shopping. So, you can imagine how much I have enjoyed the rise of internet commerce. Putting aside all of the worries of the impact on brick and mortar retail, I love the convenience of shopping online.

But unfortunately, there are draw backs to shopping online. One of which, is I still like to hold things in my hands before I buy them. I like to see how things feel, how big they are, try to figure out if something is well made and durable. And that's hard to do online. Of course, I read as many reviews as I can before I buy something, but sometimes when I open up the package that has arrived on my front porch, I'm a little disappointed. I'm a little disappointed because what's inside the box or the envelope is just not what I thought I saw on online or what I had ordered.

Something similar happens to God. He of course doesn't shop online, but He does have certain expectations and desires from all of us. For instance, our reading today tells us He wants the faith that we profess and practice on the outside of our lives to be the same as the faith that is inside of us. When He opens us up and looks inside the box or the package of our hearts, He wants to see what He ordered, what He expects from all humanity,

But often, God finds that our hearts are far from Him, despite what He or anyone else might see on the outside of our lives. This is certainly what Jesus found with the Scribes and Pharisees who came to see Him from Jerusalem. They believed that in His ignoring the "traditions of the elders" that they had found a way to discredit Him in front of the crowds. But Jesus actually uses their abuse of those traditions to unmask their hypocrisy. The hypocrisy that they use their so-called love for God as a way to hide or excuse the evil that they have inside of themselves. As an example of this, Jesus points to their use of these manmade traditions to override God's own Fourth Commandment to honor one's father and mother!

When our profession of faith and outward works are not matched by what's in our own hearts, God is disappointed with us as well. When we do and say all the right religious things because that's what we're supposed to do, or simply because our parents make us, or our spouse wants us to or as a mask behind which to hide sinful behavior, we are guilty of honoring God with our lips, while our hearts are still far from Him. And while we may fool others, and perhaps even

ourselves at times, we cannot fool the omniscient God above. The God who does not want worship and faith that is just lip service, but wants our hearts. In fact, God so desires that our hearts belong to Him, and Him alone, that He gave us His one and only Son.

All of Holy Scriptures shows us how God does more than just pay lip service to His desire to restore every single sinner to Himself. The lips of all of God's prophets from Abraham to John the Baptist – announced again and again God's promise to give the world a Savior from evil and death. But the Scriptures also record for us the story of all that God actually did in order to keep His promises – preserving His people through the flood, the Red Sea, from the Philistines, and in Babylon. Our God didn't just make promises – He kept them all – finally giving us His own Son to die on the cross, so that we might have life. This was certainly no lip service.

Today, in His Word and Sacraments, the God who loves the world that much acts in our lives to make clear that His love includes all of us. In Holy Baptism, God has called us each by name and adopted us as His own sons and daughters. In the gift of His Son's body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine of Holy Communion, He forgives us our sins and strengthens our faith. Today, God works in our lives to make clear that His love for us is more than just a promise. And in doing so, the Lord strips away all our hypocrisy so that our hearts truly do become His.

You may remember the story of King David and his adultery with Bathsheba. After he committed adultery, he went through great lengths to cover up his sin, even murdering her husband. Then, he went right back to living a very religious life as he always had. Yet now, it was only a mask to hid his guilt. But God loved David far too much for that to continue. So, God sent His prophet, Nathan, to confront David with His sin. God wanted David's heart, not his lip service, so He took away David's mask. He confronted David because He wanted David to know that He forgave him.

Likewise, God loves you and me too much to allow us to continue to wear our faith as nothing more than a mask to hide our hypocrisy. Through the Word of the Law He strips away our masks, because more than anything, God longs to speak His word of forgiveness and grace to us. He continues to act in our lives because in the place of an empty shell of religion, He desires to give us hearts that truly belong to Him. And so we see, that while we may disappoint God at times in our lives, when we open up His love and His mercy and grace we are never disappointed. For we clearly see His love for us in His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

