



# Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

**September 1, 2024 A.D.**

**15<sup>th</sup> 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 51*

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
**and cleanse me from my sin!**  
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
**wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**  
Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
**and renew a right spirit within me.**  
Cast me not away from your presence,  
**and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
**and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

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

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## **Scripture Lesson**

*(Mark 7:14-23)*

<sup>14</sup>[Jesus] called the people to him again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup>There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him." <sup>17</sup>And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. <sup>18</sup>And he said to them, "Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, <sup>19</sup>since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?" (Thus he declared all foods clean.) <sup>20</sup>And he said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. <sup>21</sup>For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, <sup>22</sup>coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

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  $\text{✝}$  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**

### **Thanksgiving**

- Labor Day holiday

### **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
- Elaine Cook - recovering at Cottage Grove after fall
- Faye Sieck - recovering after surgery
- Brenda Heims - health issues
- Pat Krekeler - recovering after hospitalization
- Duane Pfeffer - health issues
- Angela Yuza - recovering after surgery
- Ethel Doehrmann - immunotherapy treatment

### **Homebound**

- Candi Engel - Heritage Care Center

### **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**

O God, the source of all that is just and good, nourish in us every virtue and bring to completion every good intent that we may grow in grace and bring forth the fruit of good works; 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

O Father of mercies and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need, look with favor upon Your all your servants who are sick this day. Assure them of Your mercy, deliver them from temptation of the evil one, and give them patience and comfort in their illness. If it pleases You, restore them to health, or give them grace to accept this trouble with courage and hope; 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 from God - the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

As Christians we believe teach and confess that the Holy Bible is the inspired Word of God. Because it is God's Word it cannot be wrong, just as God Himself cannot be wrong. I sometimes think about this when I sit down, usually in late summer, to eat my favorite meal – BLT sandwiches with corn on the cob and watermelon for desert. Each time I have this meal, it seems as if I perform a little ritual as I have a certain way of cutting watermelon so that every piece has a part of the center – the sweetest part of the melon. I also have particular way of eating corn on the cob, one time around the left side of the ear, then down rows. And of course, like most of you I'm sure, there is a certain way I like my bacon – cooked, but not too crispy. And this is where, as I'm eating my bacon, that I sometimes think about the Bible being God's Word without error.

You see in Leviticus 11, God tells Moses and Aaron, "*And the pig, though it has a split hoof completely divided, does not chew the cud; it is unclean for you. You must not eat their meat or touch their carcasses...*" This would seem to be a problem for someone like me, who likes their lettuce and tomato sandwiches with a few slices of bacon on them, because when The Bible talks about being unclean, it's not talking about having a little bit of dirt on our face. It means that we are unworthy to stand in the presence of the Almighty. So what can I do? Can I just simply ignore these passages of Scripture that forbid one to eat pork or various other meats? Or should I say they're too old fashioned, that they were meant for Moses and Aaron but not for me today?

Well, as you know, these are not options for Christians. We cannot ignore passages of Scripture that disagree with our palette, or any other desire we have for that matter. Nor can we say that the Word of God only applies to some, and not others. So, the question remains, why may we eat pork today? And the answer is found in our Scripture reading.

Today's lesson picks up where last week's left off. There, Pharisees and the teachers of the law came and questioned Jesus concerning His disciples. They wanted to know why the disciples broke the tradition of washing before they ate. In the Pharisees' eyes this would make

the disciples unclean, much like eating pork. Jesus then told the Pharisees and the teachers of the law that they were clinging to manmade traditions, and allowing them to interfere with how God tells us to live. This works for the idea of ceremonially washing before one eats, but as we have already mentioned, God's own Word seems to forbid the eating of pork. But today's Scripture lesson does not just encourage us to live according to God's will, but in it Jesus really explains what it means to be clean or unclean.

He says in verse 15, *"There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him."* In verse 21 Jesus further explains, *"For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All of these things come from within, and they defile a person."* When we hear this list of what comes out of our hearts there might be a few things in there that cause us to blush. Chances are Jesus hit pretty close to home for all of us when He named those things. And our tendency is often to blame these evils on others. We tell ourselves "I committed adultery because my wife doesn't respect me or my husband doesn't love me. I stole from work because they don't pay me what I deserve. I slandered my neighbor because they're the ones who did it." But as much as we would like to blame our own sin, our own uncleanliness, on others, Jesus turns our accusing fingers around and points them right back at ourselves - right back at our hearts. For as one theologian said, "If our hearts were covered only in glass, we would want it to be stained glass, for inside our hearts is nothing but wickedness and evil."

Jesus clearly teaches that there is nothing outside of us that makes us sinful or unclean. But rather it is our own hearts that betray us and turn us against God. Emerson said that our emotions and desires are the ancestors to our deeds. And far too often these desires that come from our heart, from deep inside of us, stand against what God desires. Therefore, it is not how we wash that makes us sinful, nor is it what we eat.

And with sinful hearts there is nothing that we can do to earn our forgiveness or justification before God. The dietary laws of the Old Testament were given to Israel therefore, not so that they may be saved, but so that they could see, and could show their devotion and obedience to, the One True God who had already saved them. The One who led them out of slavery in Egypt. The One who fed and protected them in the Wilderness. The One who gave them the promised Land. The One who would die on the cross for their sins.

In no way does Jesus dealing with the Old Testament Law in our text today give Christians permission to do, "whatever they want". Jesus in no way loosens the standards in which His redeemed people are to live and, in reality, actually elevates them. The thoughts and activities that Jesus describes at the end of our reading seem to describe someone who has no boundaries and Jesus labels such thoughts actions as those actually "defile".

But hearing God's Word today we are reminded and encouraged to focus on our hearts. To make sure that they are in the right place, as we do the right things. And God's holy, inspired, and inerrant Word tells us that our hearts are to be with God, underneath the cross of Christ. Where Jesus' blood poured out for our forgiveness, washes us clean of everything that could possibly defile us. There, underneath the cross, we are all made truly clean as all our sin is taken away. Amen.

