



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

September 22, 2024 A.D. 18th 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 37)

Delight yourself in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him, and he will act.

He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,
and your justice as the noonday.

Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him;
fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!

For those with access to the internet, you may now play today's worship video, located at bethanycr.org/sermons and then continue with the Apostles' Creed. Everyone else may continue the service as printed....

Scripture Lesson

(Mark 9:30-37)

³⁰[The disciples] went on from there and passed through Galilee. And [Jesus] did not want anyone to know, ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise." ³²But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him.

³³And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you discussing on the way?" ³⁴But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. ³⁵And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me."

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

- Joshua (friend of Chuck Kroemer) - family issues
- Caregivers of those who are ill
- Mickie Sjullie - employment search
- Nathan & Sarah Federwitz - Lutheran Bible Translators
- Peace in Europe and throughout the world
- Project 24 students, Yvonne and Lorine

Healing

- Duane Pfeffer - upcoming surgery 9/25
- John Hamm - recovering after hospitalization
- Beth Wright - recovering after fall
- Bennet (friend of Charles Clark) - leg injury
- Doni (relative of Sheryl Knutson) - upcoming surgery
- Arlene (relative of Sheryl Knutson) - healing
- Grant (grandson of Zenors) - recovering after accident
- Angela Yuza - recovering after surgery
- Wilson (son of Luke Viertel) - recovering after surgery
- Deb Heitland - recovering after surgery
- Elaine Cook - recovering at Cottage Grove after fall
- Brenda Heims - health issues
- Pat Krekeler - recovering after hospitalization
- Ethel Doehrmann - immunotherapy treatment

Homebound

- Dorothy Freese - Keystone Place

Mourning, friends and family of

- Trevor (relative of Hackbardts) - died 9/17
- Craig (relative of Missy Gingrich) - died 9/2

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

Collect of the Day

O God, whose strength is made perfect in weakness, grant us humility and childlike faith that we may please You in both will and deed; 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.

In most cases, it is not good if someone tells you that you are acting like a child. I always know I'm treading this fine line when my wife says something to the effect of, "You're a grown

man!” I think that is a good thing, but whatever it is that I’m doing that causes her to say that, is probably not. But I know that I’m not the only one who doesn’t always act my age. I am always amazed around Christmas time to see grown adults fighting in stores for the latest and greatest “hot toy” of the year. Likewise - in our neighborhoods, out driving on the road or shopping in the store, we see grown people acting like little children as they try to be first, or important, or get their way. And when we see this type of behavior we usually recognize it as foolish or embarrassing. Yet in today’s Gospel reading, Jesus does teach us that there is a right way to act childish.

St. Mark writes that Jesus wanted to spend some time alone with the disciples so that He could teach them. He wanted to prepare them for what was about to take place and He could not have been more clear. He described to them His atoning death on the cross and the resurrection that would bring them – and the entire world – the free gift of everlasting life. This was the very reason that Jesus was here.

But for the time being, the disciples were so far from understanding what Jesus was trying to teach them that they actually began to argue among themselves as to who was the greatest in their group. Perhaps some had argued that the money-handler of the group was the greatest. After all, why else would Jesus have placed this important role upon Judas? Or perhaps Peter claimed to be the greatest, the one with the rock like faith who would later deny Christ three times. In the midst of all of this they become remarkably quiet when Jesus asks them what they were arguing about and confronts them with their own pride.

Here I should point out that at least the disciples appear to be ashamed of their sinful pride or at least their lack of understanding. They had the good sense to be quiet when Jesus confronted them. Today, it seems as if more and more people take pride in their sin. So often, people know that what they are doing is wrong, yet their pride prohibits them from having any desire to change their behavior and even lets them go around boasting about it. James tells us, *“But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, and demonic.”* But when confronted with our sin, we must answer God’s call to put away our excuses and our pride and turn from that sin to Christ for our forgiveness.

Jesus Himself shows us this type of humility as He came into this world not as a prince or a king, but as a servant. A servant who would suffer and die for those He came to serve. This is not the type of greatness that the disciples or anyone else today thinks about. But it is the greatness of God, where the first shall be last, the greatest is the servant.

It is at this point that Jesus teaches the disciples that God wants us, and enables us, to act like little children in our spiritual lives when we repent of our sin and ask for God’s grace and mercy. Jesus presents the disciples with a little child. And He tells them, *“Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the One who sent me”*. In the ancient world a child had no standing whatsoever. To welcome a child would be to humble one self. A person would have to put aside all of their concern for greatness or power in welcoming a child and in doing so, let their greatness and power rest in God’s hands. By welcoming a little child, Jesus tells us to become like child who put their trust and hope in the Heavenly Father.

Parents today have to worry about all sorts of things. But the child of loving parents worries about relatively little. Because as a child, he or she trusts that there will be food, clothing, and shelter. They trust in their parents to care for them. And Jesus tells us to have the same trust in our Heavenly Father.

The Lord says to each of us today to have faith like one of these little ones. By the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, He has given you that faith. A faith that trusts completely because that is just the way it is; a faith that doesn't feel embarrassed or become meek when it is brought out into the light Monday through Saturday. A faith that is uncompromising in the face of the world because it knows the truth about Jesus Christ. It is this simple but strong and sound faith that our Lord wants all Christians to keep and maintain. As adults we know how difficult that is and how often we have failed. But our weakness is precisely where our Lord works on us. It is there that His power is made perfect in us. It is in our spiritual weakness that we rely on God and trust in Him to carry us through like a little child. Amen.

