



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

September 29, 2024 A.D. 19th 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 135)

Your name, O LORD, endures forever,
your renown, O LORD, throughout all ages.
Praise the LORD! Praise the name of the LORD,
give praise, O servants of the LORD,
who stand in the house of the LORD,
in the courts of the house of our God!
Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good;
sing to his name, for it is pleasant!
Your name, O LORD, endures forever,
your renown, O LORD, throughout all ages.
For the LORD will vindicate his people
and have compassion on his servants.

We're sorry, but due to illness amongst the church staff and their families, the video of this week's sermon is unavailable. You may still find a written copy at the end of this devotion.

Scripture Lesson

(Mark 9:38-50)

³⁸John said to [Jesus], "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." ³⁹But Jesus said, "Do not stop him, for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰For the one who is not against us is for us. ⁴¹For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will by no means lose his reward.

⁴²"Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. ⁴³And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to

go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. ⁴⁵And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸‘where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.’ ⁴⁹For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

Sermon

Athanasian Creed

Whoever desires to be saved must, above all, hold the catholic faith.

Whoever does not keep it whole and undefiled will without doubt perish eternally.

And the catholic faith is this,

that we worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the substance.

For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Holy Spirit is another.

But the Godhead of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is one: the glory equal, the majesty coeternal.

Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit:

the Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, the Holy Spirit uncreated;

the Father infinite, the Son infinite, the Holy Spirit infinite;

the Father eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal.

And yet there are not three Eternals, but one Eternal,

just as there are not three Uncreated or three Infinities, but one Uncreated and one Infinite.

In the same way, the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, the Holy Spirit almighty;

and yet there are not three Almighty, but one Almighty.

So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God;

and yet there are not three Gods, but one God.

So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord;

and yet there are not three Lords, but one Lord.

Just as we are compelled by the Christian truth to acknowledge each distinct person as God and Lord, so also are we prohibited by the catholic religion to say that there are three Gods or Lords.

The Father is not made nor created nor begotten by anyone.

The Son is neither made nor created, but begotten of the Father alone.

The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son, neither made nor created nor begotten, but proceeding.

Thus, there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits.

And in this Trinity none is before or after another; none is greater or less than another; but the whole three persons are coeternal with each other and coequal, so that in all things, as has been stated above, the Trinity in Unity and Unity in Trinity is to be worshiped.

Therefore, whoever desires to be saved must think thus about the Trinity.

But it is also necessary for everlasting salvation that one faithfully believe the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, it is the right faith that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is at the same time both God and man.

He is God, begotten from the substance of the Father before all ages; and He is man, born from the substance of His mother in this age:

perfect God and perfect man, composed of a rational soul and human flesh;
equal to the Father with respect to His divinity, less than the Father with respect to His humanity.

Although He is God and man, He is not two, but one Christ:

one, however, not by the conversion of the divinity into flesh, but by the assumption of the humanity into God;

one altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person.

For as the rational soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ,
who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead,
ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence
He will come to judge the living and the dead.

At His coming all people will rise again with their bodies and give an account concerning their own deeds.

And those who have done good will enter into eternal life, and those who have done evil into eternal fire.

This is the catholic faith; whoever does not believe it faithfully and firmly cannot be saved.

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 - recovering after surgery
- John Hamm - recovering at Transitional Care
- Beth Wright - recovering after fall
- Bennet (friend of Charles Clark) - leg injury
- Doni (relative of Sheryl Knutson) - ongoing cancer treatment
- 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

- Verlyn & Paul LeFevere - at home

Mourning, friends and family of

- Ty Robinson– died 9/22
- 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

Everlasting Father, source of every blessing, mercifully direct and govern us by Your Holy Spirit that we may complete the works You have prepared for us to do; 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

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

As we begin looking at our text we find the disciples troubled by a man casting out demons in the name of Jesus. The problem, as the disciples see it, is that this strange exorcist is not one of

the twelve, not part of Jesus' inner circle, or one that was sent directly by Jesus out into the world. Yet this man uses the name of Jesus. Today, names are sometimes taken for granted. Often however, parents will name their child hoping that the child will live up to it's name, especially if the child is named after someone great.

Jesus tells the disciples to let this guy who is casting out demons to keep doing what he is doing. He tells them, "No one who does anything in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, for whoever is not against us is for us." The life of a believer in Christ is not a contradiction, a Christian must live up to their name, a follower of Christ. You cannot stab Jesus in the back, by one minute doing wonderful, even miraculous things in His name, and in the next minute mock or speak evil about Him. A person who does this is simply not a Christian to begin with. They do not have the name of the Lord of with them.

But the man in our text did have God's name with him and his actions showed that he was living up to that name and so Jesus said keep going; keep working and being a witness to Me. Today everyone of us who have been baptized in the name of the Triune God have been given God's name as well. The question however is, how will do we live up to that name? And the answer is very, very well.

It is amazing that we do live up to the name of God, even though He sets an impossibly high standard. Christ tells us that we are to be perfect. We are to keep every single letter of the God's Law. We are never to sin, not a single time. That's what God demands of us. If we are honest with ourselves, it is easy to see that no one lives up to this expectation. It is easy to see how miserably we fail. Some of our sins can be seen right on the surface: murder, hatred, and adultery. Others sort of lurk beneath the surface: sins such as lust, drunkenness, and jealousy. Some sins we sort of build up a resistance to, they become so common. They happen so often that we're not even aware that we are sinning: sins such as gossip, bad language, ignoring those who in physical, mental and spiritual need. And all of these are sins that we actually do or participate in. The situation becomes totally hopeless when we realize that we were born sinners. We were conceived sinful. When our parents gave us our name, we were sinful.

That is true for every person who walked the face of the earth, except for the one person named Jesus Christ. When He was born, there was no sin that came with His name. As He grew from a child to man, He did nothing to dishonor His name or God. He lived a sinless life. And yet He still suffered the consequences of sin when He was put to death on the cross. But He did this out of love, so that our dishonor, our guilt, our sin would be placed upon Him. The Son of God would suffer the consequences of our sin. Do you know what Jesus' name means? It means "The Lord Saves." And that is exactly what He did: Jesus won salvation for you by His righteous life, sacrificial death, and His miraculous resurrection.

There is power in this name. It is in the name of Christ that world has changed. The Rule use to be do unto others before they do it to you. But in Jesus' name love and compassion became known in the world. Dr. Dale Meier pointed out that it was in the name of Christ that hospitals and charities were started. What are often considered the most excellent examples of music and art in the world where done in the name of Christ. Science as we know it today, had it's beginnings with men and women who would call on the name of Christ. Public education for the masses and equal rights for women and minorities were all started by those who would call upon the name of Jesus Christ. That's power. Power that has changed the course of history. But it is nothing compared to the power of Christ that has changed our lives and eternal future.

Everyone who now calls on the name of the Lord, may not be a great artist or a scientist, but they will be saved. Those who trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins, for eternal life

and salvation, will not suffer the torment of their sins for they have been forgiven by this amazing act of God's love for us. When we think about it then, we do live up to the name that we have been given in our baptisms pretty well. In fact, we live up to God's name perfectly. For even though we sin, Jesus Christ covers our sin with His name and His perfect righteousness. Amen.



Notes and Announcements

Parking lot resurfacing will take place October 7-18. Please park in the BACK LOT October 7-11 and the FRONT LOT October 14-18. Please see the bulletin board for more information.

The American Red Cross will host a **blood drive** at Bethany on Thursday, October 3. Donate blood to save lives! Appointments can be made at redcrossblood.org or by calling **1-800-733-2767**.

Join Bethany friends at a **fall picnic potluck!** We'll meet after church on Sunday, October 13 (12:30-3:30) at the Meadowlark Shelter in Wanatee Park (2001 Big Bluestem Circle, Marion). Please invite a friend and sign up at the Welcome Center if you plan to attend! Sandwiches and drinks will be provided. If you can bring a dish to share, please indicate on the signup. We'll play some outdoor games (feel free to bring your favorites!), and if a group is interested, we'll take a hike together. See you there!

Join Bethany friends at a Christian concert! Casting Crowns, We The Kingdom, Mac Powell, Katy Nichole, Terrian, & David Leonard will be at the Alliant Energy PowerHouse on Sunday, October 20. Pricing for adults is \$25/ticket; kids 18 and under are \$10/ticket. For tickets, **sign up at the Welcome Center by September 29!**

The **LWML Cedar Rapids Zone Fall Event** will be held Saturday, October 5 at King of Kings (3275 N. Center Point Rd). Registration is at 8:30 and the event starts at 9:00 a.m. All women are invited to this event, featuring a presentation about disaster response. Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you plan to attend.

Next Sunday, October 6 we will celebrate **LWML Sunday**. Please bring your mites to support LWML national mission grants!

Stewardship packets have been sent to members. Please prayerfully consider your tithes and offerings for 2025, complete your pledge card, and return it to Bethany by Sunday, October 6.

Take a **CPR and first aid class** at Bethany on Saturday, October 19 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. There are spots for two more people, and the cost is \$10 for Bethany members. Contact Nurse Ronda if interested.

Young adults (ages 18-30) are invited to be part of a young adults group! Join us on the first Sunday of each month at 5:00 p.m. Our first meetup will be on Sunday, October 6. We'll meet at Kierra's home; please contact the church office for Kierra's address.

Stewardship Note: Mark 9:45 – *“And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell.”* So what is causing us to sin? Lust? Greed? Fear? Better to cut it off! We need the Lord's help to do this — and you are in the right place this Lord's Day to receive that help through Word and Sacrament!