



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

November 3, 2024 A.D.

All Saints' Sunday

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 Revelation 7 and Psalm 31

These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.

They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

In you, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame;

in your righteousness deliver me.

For you are my rock and my fortress;

and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me.

Into your hand I commit my spirit;

you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

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

Matthew 5:1-12

Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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

Thanksgiving

- All Saints' remembrance
- Devon (friend of Hedtkes & Chitticks) - safe return home

Entrusting into God's Care

- 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

- Linda (relative of Elaine Behrens) - surgery
- Margaret (relative of Hedtkes/Chitticks) - health issues
- Kelli (friend of Madsens) - cancer surgery and treatment
- Dave Christian - cancer
- Faye Sieck - hospitalization
- Brenda Heims - recovering after surgery
- Prudy Petersen - recovering at Cottage Grove after fall
- Luci Stoelting - recovering after fall
- Norma Filmore - recovering at home after surgery
- Phillip Hackbardt - recovering after surgery
- Elda Joyner - recovering at home after surgery
- Duane Pfeffer - recovering after surgery
- John Hamm - recovering at assisted living in Waukee
- Angela Yuza - recovering after surgery
- Deb Heitland - health issues
- Elaine Cook - recovering at home after fall
- Ethel Doehrmann - immunotherapy treatment

Homebound

- Dorothy Freese - Keystone Place

Mourning, friends and family of

- Jack Schleier (5-year-old friend of Zimmermans) - died 10/29
- Nancy (relative of Chuck Kroemer) - died 10/4
- Ty Robinson (son of Jeannine Robinson) - died 9/22

Serving Our Country

- 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 everlasting God, You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one communion, the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that, together with them, we may come to the unspeakable joys You have prepared for those who love You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever...

Amen.

Concluding Prayers

Heavenly Father, into whose keeping we entrust our loved ones, help us to look to You in our time of sorrow, remembering the cloud of faithful witnesses with which we are surrounded. Grant that we may one day share in the joys of those who now rest in Your presence; 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.

Blessed are the saints. This weekend we celebrate All Saints' Day – an occasion to give thanks to the Lord for those who died in the Christian Faith and hold them up as examples of brothers and sisters who have remained in that same Faith until the end of their lives here with us. We give thanks to God for the blessings the saints have received and look forward to the day when we shall receive them as well. But, in the midst of this celebration, a sobering reality comes to us. One that many today would not like to think about or at the very least, shy away from. This reality is that all of the Saints in which we remember, have died. They have all succumbed to death in what appears to be a final and terrible defeat.

Death is a subject that many people do not like to talk about. Some Christians might feel uncomfortable with death because it reminds us of our sin. Perhaps others because it reminds them of their own weakness, of how frail health and life really are. Or perhaps people do not like to talk about death because it brings about a sense of urgency, reminding us that our days are limited. For many, death conjures up painful memories -those of a fallen creation or those of a fallen loved one.

The fact that we don't like death can be seen all around us, in the many different ways we try to avoid it. People today spend millions of dollars on exercise equipment and dietary supplements, not because they enjoy working out or the taste of whatever they're forcing down their throats, but because someone is promising them they will live longer if they do it. In

Washington our leaders spend billions, if not trillions of dollars on healthcare, helping to improve the quality of life, but also trying to avoid life's end. Now don't misunderstand me. I'm not saying that we shouldn't exercise, take our vitamins, or work to improve health care. However, we need to understand that no matter how hard we try, we are never far from the old enemy of death.

In the Bible we read that unlike many of us, Jesus never shied away from death. In fact, He seemed more than willing to confront. When a synagogue ruler named Jarius came to Jesus and said, "My little daughter is dying. Please come..." Jesus went to the girl! As He was traveling to the house and word came to Him that girl had already died, Jesus did not shy away from a potentially uncomfortable situation. He kept going to the little girl and her family and the mourners that were around them so that He could confront death.

There are of course other examples of where Jesus marched right into the jaws of death. There was Lazarus who died and the widow whom Jesus met whose son had just died. But most strikingly of all, was when Jesus Himself died on the cross. To many in this world who try to run away from death, Christians who find peace and dare I say even joy, in the midst of death itself, act like fools. How can we say anyone is blessed, when Jarius' daughter is dead, when Lazarus is dead, when the widow's son is dead, when our parents, our spouses, even our children - when God Himself lies dead in the tomb!

When Jesus came to the house of Jarius, He said the girl was only sleeping and they laughed at Him. It was then that Jesus said, "*Little girl, get up.*" and she rose. Jesus said "*Lazarus come out*" and his decaying body rose. To the widow's son He said, "*Young man, I say to you, get up*" and the widow had her son back. To the women at His own tomb the resurrected Christ asked, "*Who is it you are looking for?*" and revealed that He was not dead but He Himself had risen from the dead.

Knowing that Christ has risen, St. Paul asks, "*Where O death is your victory? Where O death is your sting?*" Because Jesus Himself freely died as a sacrifice for all those who must die because of their sin and rose from the grave three days later, we don't have to shy away from death or even be afraid of it. In fact in the midst of it we can have peace and comfort. We can find comfort in the life of those whom God has redeemed, we can celebrate His blessed saints.

In our Scripture lesson we see the blessing that God's saints receive. The beatitudes are not conditions that we must meet, but rather statements of what those who trust in Christ have. Those who mourn are COMFORTED. Those who are meek, have INHERITED THE EARTH! Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, those who are merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, they are FILLED, SHOWN MERCY, SEE GOD, AND CALLED SONS OF GOD. And being shown mercy, and filled with righteousness and seeing God is nothing less than the Kingdom of Heaven. When sin is no longer a barrier separating us from the Lord, these words are an attempt to describe in manmade terms what mankind has not experienced since the Garden of Eden, a literal paradise, where there is no death, no suffering, no sin, just God, the angels and His saints.

As we think of those who are experiencing these blessings in ways that we can only imagine, let us not only thank God for them, let us left them up to us as examples as to how we ourselves should act and live our lives. In doing this there is no small amount of danger, that unfortunately many have fallen into. People read the passages of scripture such as our Gospel lesson and think, "to have the kingdom of heaven, I must be poor in spirit. To inherit the earth, I must be meek." But we know that we do not earn God's favor by the works that we do, but as St. John writes we purify ourselves by putting our hope in Christ. Therefore, we don't love our neighbor to be saved, we love our neighbor, and do whatever else God commands, because we are

saved! Likewise, God’s living saints are meek, they are merciful, they mourn, and hunger and thirst for righteousness not to earn all of the blessings listed before us, but because they already have them. They are signed, sealed, and delivered by blood Jesus Christ our Lord.

And in lifting up the heavenly saints as examples to follow we see how they lived like Christians and know that we can as well. Of course, we know that they were sinners before they died, but this should encourage us all the more, that if a sinners like Moses, Abraham and Paul, or even mom and dad, can enter heaven we know we can as well.

Blessed are those who mourn. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst. Blessed are the peacemakers, when people insult and persecute you. Blessed are the saints – those who have died, but live in Christ. Blessed are you, and I, and all Christians through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

