



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

November 10, 2024 A.D. 25th 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 107)

Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,
for his wondrous works to the children of men!

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!

Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,
whom he has redeemed from trouble.

He raises up the needy out of affliction
and makes their families like flocks.

The upright see it and are glad,
and all wickedness shuts its mouth.

For those with access to the internet, you may now play the worship video that will be available Sunday evening, located on Bethany's website (www.bethanycr.org) under the Worship Resources tab and then continue with the Apostles' Creed. Everyone else may continue the service as printed....

Scripture Lesson

(Mark 12:38-44)

³⁸In his teaching [Jesus] said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and like greetings in the marketplaces ³⁹and have the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts, ⁴⁰who devour widows' houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

⁴¹And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴²And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. ⁴³And he called his disciples to him and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering

box. ⁴⁴For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

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

- America's Veterans
- Brenda Heims - recovered after surgery
- Luci Stoelting - recovered after fall

Entrusting into God's Care

- Prudy Petersen - hospice 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 - recovering after hospitalization
- 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

- Norman (father of Ken Zenor)- died 11/5
- Jack Schleier (5-year-old friend of Zimmermans) - died 10/29
- Nancy (relative of Chuck Kroemer) - died 10/4

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 ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Grant us so firmly to believe in Your Son Jesus that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, 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.



As Christians we know that Jesus, the Son of God, came down from heaven and took upon Himself our humanity. But our Gospel lesson this morning shows that Jesus had more in common with us than just His human nature. Mark tells us that Jesus, like some of you, was a people watcher.

In our Scripture lesson, Jesus is watching the people in the Temple. And it seems that He doesn't really mind if anyone knows what He's doing, because after watching people place their money into the offering box, He calls the disciples over to Himself. Now offerings in the Temple were not handled the way that offerings in the church are today. Instead of having a specific moment in or after the service where offerings are collected, in the Temple there were 13 large receptacles, looking sort like upside down trumpets, out in the courtyard. And because there was no paper money, let alone credit cards, checks, or electronic funds transfers, the worshippers would simply walk up to these receptacles and drop their coins in. And so, as the coins rattled down these tubes it seemed that some people liked to hang around to see how much each person gave.

As the disciples came over to Jesus, what He told them would have been surprising. He said that a widow, who came over and placed in two small copper coins, which would have roughly been her daily income, had given more than all the others who had placed far greater sums into the Temple Treasury. This was true, because while the others gave out of their abundance, she put in all that she had to live.

This teaching of Jesus is sort of a double-edged sword. On the one hand, we see that the Lord encourages the poor, who may believe that they lack any means to please God and serve their neighbor. They should never doubt that the good that they do, no matter how small it may seem to them or the world, is pleasing in the sight of God. On the other hand, this lesson tells those who are well off to be careful in comparing what they give or what they do, to those around them. For God is happier with a poor man who exhausts himself giving only a little, than with the rich giving moderately from an abundance.

The implications of all of this on our lives today are many. For instance, just thinking that we are talking about this widow's small offering today, shows us how God can do incredible things with the smallest offering or acts of service. Two copper coins placed in the treasury by a widow has been used by God to teach His people for thousands of years!

Also, we see in this text that God is blesses and uses His people without regard to their station in life. There is no advantage in the Kingdom of God to being rich or poor; young or old, sickly or the picture of perfect health. All of us, without exception, can do great things for God in His Kingdom.

Because when it comes to giving to or to serving the Lord, where our hearts are – the posture of our hearts if you will, makes all of the difference in the world. When I pay my taxes, the IRS doesn't care whether or not I pay with a joyful heart - just as long as I pay! But this isn't the case with our Lord. St. Paul tells us in I Corinthians 13, "*If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.*" But Jesus shows us in our text, that if we give only a penny with the attitude and love of the widow, it is of great gain to God and to us.

Therefore this story of the widow's mite is about so much more than just giving. It's about where our hearts are. It's about faith. It's about what we fear, love, and trust the most. The widow had faith in God. She knew that God would take care of her on both sides of the grave and therefore

able to give all that had. This loving and faithful attitude did not come from the fear of God, nor did it come from an expectation of some type of reward. It came from faith.

And faith is a gift of God that the Holy Spirit grants through the Gospel. And so, should we find ourselves lacking in our love and service and giving, we will not make excuses for what has been done in the past. Nor will we listen to the threats of punishment nor the promises of glory for the future. Instead, we will go to the cross of Christ. We will go to the cross where we see our Lord and Savior giving all that He had, even His sinless life, so that we can be forgiven. As we remember and admire, and seek to imitate, the widow in our text today for giving all that she had in service to God, let us never forget our Savior, who gave all that He had on the cross. Amen.

