



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

November 17, 2024 A.D. The 26th 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.

Introit

(From Mark 13 and Psalm 48)

The one who endures to the end
will be saved.

Let Mount Zion be glad!

Let the daughters of Judah rejoice because of your judgments!

Walk about Zion, go around her, number her towers,

consider well her ramparts, go through her citadels,

that you may tell the next generation that this is God, our God forever and ever.

He will guide us forever.

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

Mark 13:1-13

¹As [Jesus] came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!" ²And Jesus said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down."

³And as he sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴"Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are about to be accomplished?" ⁵And Jesus began to say to them, "See that no one leads you astray. ⁶Many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. ⁷And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. ⁸For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains.

⁹"But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them.

¹⁰And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. ¹¹And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. ¹²And brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death. ¹³And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved."

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

- Norma Fillmore - recovered after surgery

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

- Phillip Hackbardt - recovering after surgery
- Duane Pfeffer - upcoming surgery on 11/20
- Linda Patten - upcoming surgery on 11/21
- David (brother of Karen Pfeffer) - health issues
- Dixie (mother of Jeff Madsen) - health issues
- Linda (relative of Elaine Behrens) - surgery
- Margaret (relative of Hedtkes/Chitticks) - health issues
- Kelli (friend of Madsens) - cancer surgery and treatment
- Dave Christian - cancer treatment
- Faye Sieck - recovering after hospitalization
- Elda Joyner - recovering at home 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

- Verlyn & Paul LeFevere - at home

Mourning, friends and family of

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

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

O Lord, by Your bountiful goodness release us from the bonds of our sins, which by reason of our weakness we have brought upon ourselves, that we may stand firm until the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Concluding Prayers

Almighty God, grant us a steadfast faith in Jesus Christ, a cheerful hope in Your mercy, and a sincere love for You and one another; 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.



The Jewish rabbis said, “He who has not seen Jerusalem in her splendor has never seen a desirable city in his life.” And, “He who has not seen the Temple in its full construction has never seen a glorious building...” As Jesus left this temple and went out into this city, one of His disciples in our text today was certainly impressed. Seeing some of the white stones that made up the temple and surrounding buildings, some of which measured 40’ long, he said “Look teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!”

It may not be correct to say that Jesus was not impressed with the grandeur of Jerusalem and the riches of the temple. Although it’s easy to imagine that the One by whom all things were made would not get all that excited over things made by people. Regardless of how Jesus felt however, He points something out to His disciples. He says that all of these great buildings will be destroyed. All of these massive stones will be knocked over and not one will be left on top of another.

Now we need to understand that Jerusalem, and especially the temple, was absolutely critical in the lives of Jews during Jesus’ time. This was the land promised by God to their ancestors. The temple was where worship and sacrifices took place. All of which pointed to the fact that the Jews were indeed God’s chosen people. So, for Jesus to say that all of this was going to be destroyed, would be a little bit like saying every major city in America will be wiped away. Is it any wonder then that Peter, James, John, and Andrew want to know when these things will happen? That they want to know what to look for as that time approaches?

To be sure, we have our “temples” here today in America. The Empire State Building, the Hoover Dam, the Golden Gate Bridge. All of these and of course many more, are not only practical structures, but also meant to impress. Sort of show off how smart we are, how great our country is. Who could build such a building or a bridge except America?!?! What would your reaction be if Jesus told us that all of these things will be gone? What would be your reaction if Jesus said the very core of your life would be

shaken and turned upside down? Wouldn't you ask Him when? Wouldn't you ask Him how or why, just like the disciples? And what kind of answer would you be looking for?

But what does Jesus say. Looking at our text – He says, “*Watch out that no one deceives you.*” He goes on to say, “*You must be our your guard.*” And finally, “*He who stands firm to the end will be saved.*” The answers that Jesus gives the disciples to their question, are the same answers that we need to hear for ours. Jesus’ answers are not concerned with handing out the tiny details of the troubles of this world. Rather they tell us and encourage us to endure - to stand firm until the very end because God is with us and He will save us from whatever disaster or strife comes to us – even death itself.

As Jesus goes about explaining His answer, He mentions false teachers, wars, earthquakes, and persecution. There have been some who comb over the history books and read the news thinking that if they can find all of these things happening, then they will know that something big is about to happen. Apparently however, these folks so interested in the future they have completely forgotten the past, namely that all of these things have been going on for 1000’s of years. Cain killed Abel. The prophets and apostles were persecuted. Earthquakes happen all the time. Last week our nation gave thanks to our veterans, reminding the rest of us not only of their service, but the fact that our country has fought in wars since its beginning. And so, when Jesus answers the disciples, He points out things that have always been going on since the Fall and will always be going on until He comes back – saying don’t worry about when Jerusalem will fall, because after that, there will be the plague, then WWI and WWII. There will be hurricanes and wars today. And all of the things that we think are glorious and will last forever will be destroyed. So, watch out; be on your guard; and stand firm because if you do, you will be saved.

You will be saved, because the one thing that is eternal was destroyed. Not the temple in Jerusalem or any building that we know of today. But the temple that was Jesus Christ. As God Himself, Jesus stands outside of time and rules over it. Yet out of His great love for us, He clothed Himself in our humanity so that He could die as the sacrifice for our sins. Now, sacrifices at the temple in Jerusalem are useless, for the perfect sacrifice of Jesus has been made. And now, by watching out so that no one will deceive us and take us from Him; by being on our guard as we are persecuted and witnessing to others about Him; by standing firm with Him until even the end of our lives – not only will we be united with Jesus in a death like His, we will be united with Him in life, in a glorious resurrected life like His as well. So not matter what we face in this life, Christians have a promise from God Himself, that He will see us into a new and better life through Jesus Christ. When encountering problems, no matter how big or small, we don’t turn to ourselves – we first turn to Christ.

FDR, once said, “When you get to the end of your rope, make a knot in it and hang on.” These are wise words from someone who knew quite a bit about persevering and standing firm. He of course was president of our country during most of WWII, when not only America, but the free world was in grave danger. And he led this country, all the while battling polio. In our text this morning, Jesus is telling us to hang on. But not to some metaphorical “rope”. But hang on to Him. Cling to Christ. For there will always be events that shake the very foundations of our being, but Christ will be there and He will save us.

As it turns out, Jesus was of course right. Jesus spoke these words to His disciples in about 30 AD. Mark recorded them for us in his Gospel most likely sometime in the 50’s or 60’s. And in the year 67 General Vespian was sent by the Roman Emperor Nero to conquer Jerusalem. In the panic that ensued in the city factions of Jews fought with each other preventing an effective defense. As the city was put under siege, things were reportedly so bad in the city that mothers were feeding their dead children to the rest of their families. When the Roman armies under Titus, Vespian had returned to Rome as Emperor, smashed through the North Wall they burned the city causing much of the gold used to make the temple and other building to melt and run between the large stones. As you may have guessed, the Roman armies

then spent their time knocking down each large stone to retrieve the gold that had melted. Thus Jesus' words were all too true, not one stone was left upon another.

History has shown that Jesus' words at the beginning of our text were correct, and history will tell that His Words at the end are correct as well. Those of us who stand firm, who put our trust in Him, will be saved. And the glory that we will see will not be a city or a building, but that of God Himself. Amen.

