



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

December 1, 2024 A.D.

The First Sunday in Advent

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 Zechariah 9 & Psalm 89

Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation.
Who in the skies can be compared to the LORD?
Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD?
Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;
steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.
Blessèd are the people who know the festal shout,
who walk, O LORD, in the light of your face,
who exult in your name all the day
and in your righteousness are exalted.
For our shield belongs to the LORD,
our king to the Holy One of Israel.

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

(Luke 19:28-40)

²⁸When [Jesus] had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰saying, "Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: 'The Lord has need of it.'" ³²So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. ³³And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴And they said, "The Lord has need of it." ³⁵And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. ³⁷As he was drawing near—already on

the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, ³⁸saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” ³⁹And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” ⁴⁰He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”

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

- Linda Patten - recovering after surgery

Entrusting into God's Care

- Prudy Petersen - hospice care at Cottage Grove

- 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

- David F - upcoming surgery

- Jamie L - health and wellbeing

- Paul LeFevere - recovering after hospitalization

- Kris Larson - recovering after hospitalization

- Phillip Hackbardt - recovering after surgery

- Duane Pfeffer - recovering after surgery

- 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

- Candi Engel - Heritage Care Center

Mourning, friends and family of

- Ken (brother of Karen Schmidt) - died 11/19

- Sandra (sister of Karen Hass) - died 11/17

- Dennis (relative of Hoppe and Fischer) - died 11/16

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

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Concluding Prayers

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scripture to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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 our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
Amen.

It was weeks ago when I saw the first decoration for Christmas in the stores around town. Now, I'm probably like you and would like to think that all of these stores are getting into the Christmas spirit because they are so anxious to celebrate our Savior's birth! Or at least to help others celebrate that great occasion. But that would probably be a little naïve, wouldn't it? The fact of the matter is, that many people are looking forward to Christmas coming this year, but it has nothing to do with celebrating anyone's incarnation, rather it is because that Christmas has become big business, with many stores and companies eager to turn a profit as we celebrate the holidays.

Of course, there is nothing wrong with businesses and companies offering products to help get us ready for the holidays, decorating their stores and playing Christmas carols over the sound system, even if the goal is to make money. But in the midst of all the lights, tinsel, and clever marketing schemes there is a danger of forgetting that the real purpose of Christmas is that our Savior, the Messiah Jesus Christ has come. And forgetting this essential fact not only robs us of the truth behind this season, but also of the hope that we have because of Christ. Hope that what we see around us is not all there is to life. Hope that evil does not rule in this world or the next.

But it is so easy to lose sight of that Hope. Think about all of the things that you have to do before Christmas arrives this year. Think of all the traditions that we have celebrating this holy day. Whether we are driving ourselves crazy running around looking for that special gift, worried about hosting or attending the perfect party, or singing "Grandma God Run Over by a Reindeer" the coming of Christ on Christmas gradually begins to slip away. And none of us are immune to it either. It's far too easy for Christmas to become about the decorations and the events, instead of the One to whom all of these things are supposed to be about.

This is of course not anything new. We see in our Gospel reading for today that when Jesus came riding into Jerusalem on a colt there were some disciples who joyfully praised God with loud voices. But

it was not because Jesus was going to the cross where He would save the world from its' sin. It was not because their Hope was being realized by the coming of the Christ. It was because they had seen miracles. People healed and fed, demons and storms driven away is what got the people excited.

Even those who should have known better lost their focus. The religious leaders, who had studied the prophets; who knew of God's promise to send a savior; who knew of the world's need for a savior, were offended when they saw the Christ coming. They wanted Jesus to rebuke those who were praising Him as a king. It is likely that the Pharisees were quite happy with their situation in life, and they were worried that any talk of a king might cause Herod or Caesar to stir things up a bit. And so they thought, "Never mind the hope of Christ coming, let's just hope things stay the same".

We read in Luke, "[Jesus] sent two of His disciples, saying to them, 'Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden...Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them". Jesus also replied to the Pharisees, "I tell you, if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out." We're not sure if Jesus meant the large stones of the Temple that we talked about the other week, that when Jews were slaughtered, the stones that were knocked over still witnessed to God's judgment. Or if Jesus was talking about stones in general – that all of creation will sing the praises of the One who rules over the heavens and the earth. Regardless of what stones Jesus is referring to the point is clear. Nothing can keep the Hope of Christmas from coming and being proclaimed.

It didn't matter that crowds were praising Jesus only because they saw Him perform miracles. He was on the way to the cross where He would die as our Savior, bringing in a new era – a New Testament, that as He rose from the grave, we might rise again as well. It didn't matter that the Pharisees were all tied up with their social status and traditions of men. If people don't praise Christ, the stones will. It doesn't matter if the stores we shop at don't get it, it doesn't matter if we get caught up in the things of this world this Christmas. Christ has come and will come again.

He knows that we are not perfect. He knows that as we celebrate Christmas this year, we want others around us to be happy so much that sometimes we forget about Him. He knows that it is hard to sing praises to God with the angels in the sky when floods and tornadoes are coming down from those same skies. It doesn't make our actions right, but He knows about them. That is why He came. And because He came, that is why we have hope. A sure and certain hope that we will not have to endure the punishment for our mistakes and our sins, because He already has. Hope that our Savior does indeed come to us event today through the Word and the Sacraments. Hope that we will dwell with Him in the new creation that He'll bring when He comes again.

And so let the stores put up their Christmas displays and play their music. Shop till you drop if you would like. Because Christmas is coming no matter how or why we celebrate, just as Christ went about His work no matter who or what stood in His way. As St. Paul says, "*neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*" So, as you sing the carols this year and look for that present, don't forget the cause of our celebration. But if you see others or even if you yourself do, take heart – there is hope. The Christ has come, Jesus the Son of God has died for us and risen, we are forgiven and look forward to His coming again. Amen.

