



# Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

**February 9, 2025 A.D. 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany**

*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 71)

O God, be not far from me;

**O my God, make haste to help me!**

My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all the day,

**for their number is past my knowledge.**

With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD I will come;

**I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone.**

O God, from my youth you have taught me,

**and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.**

So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me,

**until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.**

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## Scripture Lesson

(Luke 5:1-11)

<sup>1</sup>On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on [Jesus] to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, <sup>2</sup>and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup>Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. <sup>4</sup>And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." <sup>5</sup>And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." <sup>6</sup>And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. <sup>7</sup>They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. <sup>8</sup>But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." <sup>9</sup>For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, <sup>10</sup>and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to

Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.” <sup>11</sup>And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

## Sermon

Grace, mercy, & peace from God – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

It has long been pointed out the seemingly strange ways in which God chooses men and women to accomplish His will. Sometimes God taps the obvious choice on the shoulder so to speak. Noah alone was righteous in a world that had turned evil. But at other times, it also seems as if God should be striking down certain people, not calling them into His service. Moses, as many of you know, murdered a man before God told him to free His people at the burning bush. In the book of Joshua, God saves the spies in Jericho by sending them to the house of Rahab - a prostitute of all things.

Then of course there is Isaiah, whose call into God’s service begins to shed a little light on how God works in choosing His servants. We don’t know a whole lot about Isaiah, but we do know that he was sinner. When he is in the presence of the Almighty, he cries out, *“Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”* Isaiah seemed to understand that an unholy person, a sinner, cannot stand, cannot live in the presence of the Holy God. But then, just when Isaiah seems to be done for, his unclean lips are purified with a coal from the altar, taking away his sin and guilt. As he was, Isaiah was unfit for all the things he would do for the Lord. But when the Lord acts and purifies Isaiah, he is not only ready and able, but also willing.

Our Scripture lesson today shows God working in a similar way. It is time for Jesus to begin calling disciples, or followers to Himself. These 12, save Judas, would not only follow Jesus during His earthly ministry, but then had the awesome responsibility to carry Jesus’ ministry of the Gospel on after the Ascension. Here we would think Jesus would turn to the wealthy, or the educated, or even one of the “religious” leaders of the day. But instead, Jesus seeks out a fisherman, and apparently a bad one at that – as Simon Peter hadn’t caught anything all night! Then there is a miraculous catch of fish, which as all miracles seem to do, show those around Jesus that He is the divine Son of God. And just as Isaiah is terrified in the presence of God, so to is Simon-Peter who exclaims to Jesus, *“Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!”*

Isaiah and Simon-Peter are some pretty heavy hitters in the Lord’s line-up. Yet, when they realize in whose presence they stand, an overwhelming sense of dread comes over them both. This is quite different from the crowds that have been following Jesus around. In Nazareth and Capernaum people are chasing down Jesus, they can’t get enough of Jesus, they won’t leave Him alone. No doubt some thought they had a right to be in the presence of Jesus. But then, no doubt some in those crowds chasing down Jesus yelled, “Crucify him!” when Jesus was on trial sometime later. So, where do you stand in all of this?

To answer this question, we should not ask ourselves if we are scared or terrified of God. To do so would be to oversimplify the accounts of Isaiah and Peter, and really miss the whole point of our Christian faith. Instead, it is the attitude towards themselves that we see in these two great men, that we need to have in ourselves. Unlike so many others in the Bible, Peter and Isaiah were aware that they themselves were sinners. And it was this fact that made them unworthy to stand, let alone serve, in the presence of God. It was this humble attitude of their own situation, that

caused them to cry out in despair, but then also caused God to cleanse and purify them, so that they may not only be spared death, but also may serve.

Now the Bible tells us that each and everyone one of us stands among Isaiah and Peter as sinners. *“All have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God”* Paul reminds us in Romans, lest we look at the commandments and think we have kept them. And so, we acknowledge our sin, our unworthiness to be before God. Luther once said that one’s faith must begin with this type of humility, and then go on to more humility, and then progress to more humility still. Because it is at this point, and only here in the midst of this type of despair, will we truly see our need for Jesus Christ as our Savior. For just as God had cleansed Isaiah with the burning coal from the altar, so was Peter and all of us cleansed with the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Isaiah and Peter did nothing themselves to be saved, as we don’t either. But confessing our sins, we stand with Isaiah and Peter as forgiven saints in God’s kingdom.

And having known our situation without Christ in our lives; and knowing that Jesus laid down His life for us to bring us out of that death and into salvation, we like Peter and Isaiah also serve the Lord by living good and decent lives. A true faith that confesses one’s sin and receives Christ’s forgiveness must produce the fruit of good works. James says in his epistle, *“...as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.”* Thus, Peter and Isaiah were not content just to sit like bumps on a log after believing God had saved them. But their faith in this forgiveness drove them to become the great saints that we know today. It wasn’t that their works produced forgiveness, it was that God’s forgiveness produced their works.

Producing the fruits or works of our faith can seem intimidating, but it needn’t be. When I was a child, my friends and I would ride our bikes through some fields around our house that we called, “The Trails”. Down in the Trails there was an enormous hill that only the bravest, most daring and skillful cyclist could ride their bike down. So steep and so long, I had seen it take the skin off more than one knee or elbow. However, one winter when I was an adult – after having hiked in the mountains of Alaska and ridden on my college’s mountain bike team – I saw that same hill and it didn’t seem to be so intimidating. I was quite surprised at how small it was as an adult.

At first, producing good works that come at a cost to ones’ self may seem like standing at the top that hill as child. But growing and maturing in your faith, being strengthened by none other than the Spirit Himself, we are amazed at what can be done. The homeless can be given shelter. The hungry fed. The hopeless given hope. And sinners forgiven. All things that show not only our faith, but the power and Kingdom of God. That we can do these things, shows that we not only have the honor stand with Peter and Isaiah in confessing our sins, or even receiving forgiveness. But that we also may be so bold to say that we stand with them in serving our Lord.

May the peace of God that surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds forever in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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### **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**

- Holly (mother of Taylor Chittick) - successful surgery

#### **Entrusting into God's Care**

- Nathan & Sarah Federwitz - Lutheran Bible Translators  
- Peace in Europe and throughout the world  
- Project 24 students, Yvonne and Lorine

#### **Healing**

- Ella (friend of Zimmermans) - critical condition from accident  
- Carolyn Johnson - illness  
- Mitch Myers - recovering after surgery  
- Harold Schoen - recovering after surgery  
- Ron Prescott - recovering after surgery  
- Paul LeFevere - recovering after hospitalization  
- Tom Larson - health issues  
- Everly Zimmerman - knee injury  
- Phillip Hackbardt - recovering after surgery  
- Dave Christian - cancer treatment  
- John Hamm - recovering at assisted living in Waukee  
- Deb Heitland - health issues  
- Ethel Doehrmann - immunotherapy treatment

#### **Homebound**

- Carol Grimminger - Cottage Grove

#### **Mourning, friends and family of**

- Charlotte (relative of E Kroemer) - died 1/23  
- Kenton Zenor - died 1/4

#### **Serving Our Country**

- Aiden (grandson of Foremans) - US Army  
- 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, Germany  
- Jordan (grandson of Kim Neuhaus) - IA National Guard

**Collect of the Day**

O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; 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, You have given us this good land as our heritage. Grant that we remember Your generosity and constantly do Your will. Bless our land with honest industry, truthful education, and an honorable way of life. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil course of action. Grant that we, who came from many nations with many different languages, may become a united people. Support us in defending our liberty, and give those to whom we have entrusted the authority of government the spirit of wisdom, that there may be justice and peace in our land. When times are prosperous, may our hearts be thankful, and in troubled times do not let our faith in You fail; 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.**

