



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

March 2, 2025 A.D.

Transfiguration 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 Psalm 84)

Blessèd are those who dwell in your house,

ever singing your praise!

How lovely is your dwelling place,

O LORD of hosts!

My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD;

my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.

Behold our shield, O God;

look on the face of your anointed!

For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor.

No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.

Scripture Lesson

(Luke 9:28-36)

²⁸Now about eight days after these sayings [Jesus] took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. ³⁰And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, ³¹who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³²Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said. ³⁴As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. ³⁵And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!” ³⁶And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

Sermon

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

While there are certain celebrations that fall on the same day every year, the date of Transfiguration Sunday moves around, as it is always the Sunday right before Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday begins the somber season of Lent, when Christians focus on the sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus. Yet to fully appreciate the humiliation Jesus endured and what benefit it is to any of us, it helps to know exactly who Jesus is.

Simply put, what happens at the Transfiguration of Jesus, that we read about in our Scripture reading, is that the disciples catch a glimpse of Jesus' true identity. For years He had been refusing to use all of the power that was His, appearing to be in many ways just like you and me. The Bible tells us that Jesus became hungry (Matt 4:2), that He became thirsty (John 19:28), and that as He traveled around Judea He became tired (John 4:6) - just like any of us would have. But unlike you or I, Jesus was also God. We see some of His power in the miracles that He performs. After all, who can calm storms, give sight to the blind, and even raise the dead, except for God? But the Transfiguration is an even better, an even clearer testimony to Jesus' divinity. His clothes become whiter than humanly possible. There, talking with Jesus, is Elijah and Moses. Once again, the disciples present are awe struck. Peter, not wanting this wonderful moment to pass, wants to set up three tents to stay in. But then a cloud envelops them and God the Father speaks, "*This is my Son; My Chosen One. Listen to Him*" (9:35). All of this happening on the mountain makes one thing absolutely clear to the disciples and to everyone who believes the Scriptures are God's Word - Jesus is the Son of God and indeed, God Himself.

We now keep the Transfiguration of Jesus in mind as we move into the season of Lent this Wednesday. As we zero in on the suffering and death of Christ, we are reminded that Jesus was not simply a wise teacher as He walked the countryside teaching the masses. He was not a criminal who was unfairly tried and sentenced to death on the cross. This was the Son of God. Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten not made! And everything that He went through, from the manger to the grave, He went through because He loves each and every one of us.

Now I know there are times when we all feel that we are unloved or unlovable. When sickness and death and broken relationships come barging into our lives it certainly can feel that God doesn't love us. With war still raging in Europe and the threat of war still looming over Israel, it can seem that God doesn't really love anyone these days! And there is of course the evil that we do or the good that we don't do ourselves. Confronted with our own sinful thoughts and ways, our gut tells us that if God knew what we are really like, that He certainly would not love us.

But when Peter wanted to stay up on the mountain during the Transfiguration of Jesus, God's Word tells us that Peter didn't know what he was talking about. Because Jesus was not there to stay in His glory. If Christ had stayed in His glory than our gut reaction to sin and evil would be right – we would be lost in our sin. But Jesus did not stay there in the glory of the Transfiguration because He had another mountain to climb, Mount Calvary where He would be crucified. Jesus willingly went to this mountain where He would suffer death and being forsaken by His Heavenly Father so you and I could be forgiven our sins. He died on the cross so that when lives are destroyed, we can have hope in an eternal life that nothing can ruin or destroy. Encountering Jesus in this way, not only are we able to live our lives here in peace and comfort, but our whole lives become changed or Transfigured themselves.

With faith, that the Son of God died for our sins, there is nothing in our lives that stays the same. There are many today, as there always has been, that will say if we want God to love us, we must act or behave a certain way. But God tells us that He loves us because of what He has already done though

Christ. We read in I John 4:10, *“In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”*

Our congregation, and each of us as disciples of Christ, are called to share this message of God’s love with the world who feels unloved or unlovable. This is why it is fitting we have a cross on top of the steeple of our church here at Bethany. That cross, or any cross for that matter, is not there to threaten us with God’s wrath if we break His Law. It is there to remind us of God’s love for every person, even the worst of sinners or in the worst of times.

This love now frees us to live as God’s holy people. No longer do we need live in fear or shame over what we may have done in the past. To be sure there are consequences for sin, but we also know that those sins have died with Jesus on the cross. So no longer do we act as the world does or even as infants in God’s family, but we are transformed into the people that God wants us to become. A people whose lives have been forever changed by living under the cross of Christ, a people who live securely in God’s peace and love.

And now may the peace of God that surpasses all understanding keep your hearts and minds forever in Christ Jesus. Amen.

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

- Earlene Francik - good results after medical tests

Entrusting into God's Care

- Tony Dixon & family (King of Kings DCE) - house fire on 2/25
- Nathan & Sarah Federwitz - Lutheran Bible Translators
- Peace in Europe and throughout the world
- Project 24 students, Yvonne and Lorine

Healing

- Linda Patten - recovering after surgery
- Clyde (friend of Dave Johnson) - recovering after surgery
- Shannon (relative of Tim Potter) - cancer
- Darrell (friend of Barb Deetz) - health issues
- Carolyn (mother of Mary Vezina) - health issues
- Bernice Stonewall (former member) - recovering after surgery
- Ella (friend of Zimmermans) - recovering after surgery
- Harold Schoen - recovering after surgery
- Ron Prescott - recovering after surgery
- Tom Larson - health issues
- Everly Zimmerman - knee injury
- Dave Christian - cancer treatment
- John Hamm - recovering at assisted living in Waukee
- Deb Heitland - health issues
- Ethel Doehrmann - immunotherapy treatment

Homebound

- Marge Grovert - Ridgeview Assisted Living

Mourning, friends and family of

- Janice (grandmother of Darin Elm) - died 2/24
- Colleen (friend of Kroemers) - died 2/18
- Jeremy (relative of Elaine Behrens) - died 2/12

Serving Our Country

- Aiden (grandson of Foremans) - US Army
- Mallory (friend of Abi Clark) - IA National Guard
- Amber (daughter of Ann Balvanz) - US Army, 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 God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King in His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; 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

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.

