



# Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

**March 9, 2025 A.D.**

**The First Sunday in Lent**

*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 91)*

When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble;

**I will rescue him and honor him.**

With long life I will satisfy him

**and show him my salvation.**

Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—

**the Most High, who is my refuge—**

no evil shall be allowed to befall you,

**no plague come near your tent.**

For he will command his angels concerning you

**to guard you in all your ways.**

On their hands they will bear you up,

**lest you strike your foot against a stone.**

You will tread on the lion and the adder;

**the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.**

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## **Scripture Lesson**

*(Luke 4:1-13)*

<sup>1</sup>Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness <sup>2</sup>for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup>The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” <sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’” <sup>5</sup>And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, <sup>6</sup>and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. <sup>7</sup>If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” <sup>8</sup>And Jesus answered him, “It is written,

*“You shall worship the Lord your God,  
and him only shall you serve.”*

<sup>9</sup>And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, <sup>10</sup>for it is written,

*“He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,”*

<sup>11</sup>and

*“On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.”*

<sup>12</sup>And Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” <sup>13</sup>And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

## **Sermon**

Today in our text we find the devil tempting Christ. At first glance we may ask ourselves why the Devil would do such a thing? The Devil knew who he was dealing with. Jesus was not Adam and Eve or King David - this was the Son of God. God of God, Light of Light, begotten not made, being one substance with the Father, by whom all things are made. Yet, the Devil still tried to tempt Jesus. What exactly was he up to?

As the Devil watched Jesus in the desert fasting, he must have been pleased, for this was familiar territory for him. He remembered how easily the Israelites angered God with their constant complaining and lack of trust as they wandered through the desert after the exodus. Jesus, like the Israelites in the desert, was hungry, so why not have Him make some bread, the very thing the Israelites wanted, to feed Himself.

Does this temptation sound, or feel familiar. In our society where comfort and happiness often depend on consumption, we are ripe targets for the temptation of not trusting God to provide all that we need. We may question God, as the Israelites did. We ask for what we think we need to survive, and when He gives us our “manna” what we need, we complain it’s not good enough, or that we want more. And so the first temptation is for Jesus take matters into His own hands, and satisfy His own hunger now. Will He, like the Israelites want to turn away from where God is leading Him, go back to Egypt so to speak? Will He be like us, and scheme and plot in often sinful ways to provide for ourselves? In this pivotal moment in history with Christ and Satan staring each other down, Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 8:3, “*Man does not live on bread alone.*” Like all other men, Jesus lives by bread, but not bread alone. Bread sustains physical life, but God’s Word gives eternal life. Thus, Jesus relies on the Sword of the Spirit, God’s Holy Word to resist satan’s temptation.

Having failed the first time, the devil moves on to another favorite temptation. “Worship me, and all that you see will be yours.” Luther writes in his Large Catechism, that even those who don’t believe in a god, have gods, for a god is whatever you put your trust in. The devil here tells Jesus, “put your trust in me and I’ll give you all that you can see.” Does this sound familiar? Have you ever been lured away from God and His ways with the promise or expectation of more money, more power, or more friends? If so then you know this temptation and here we must ask, “What God do we worship?” What God do we put our trust in to give us what we need? Christ quotes Deut 6:13, “*Worship the Lord Your God and serve Him only.*” Despite the promises satan says other “gods” may hold, they cannot live up to them. Only the Triune God is to be worshipped, for He alone is able to give us what we need.

Having been bested twice now by Scripture, the devil turns to Scripture himself now. However, being the false teacher and great deceiver that he is, he misquotes Scripture and uses it

for his own purposes. He takes Jesus to the highest point on the temple and tells Him to throw Himself down. The psalms say that since He is the Son of God, God will not let Him be hurt. The Father will protect Him, the angels will rescue Him and everyone will see it and believe that Jesus is the Christ. But Christ again quotes from Deuteronomy, and tells Satan not to test the Lord. For the way that Christ had to go while He was here did not include the Father's protection, but rather the Father's wrath. Life for Jesus would not be easy, with angels watching over him to make sure that absolutely nothing ever happened to him. Yet Jesus must be obedient to the Father, even obedient to the cross.

According to the devil, there would be no martyrs, no one would have to suffer for their faith. Listen to his temptations and he'll tell you there is no cross for you to bear. He'll tell you that a loving, all powerful God would not let anything bad happen to those whom He loved or those who loved Him. After all that would make sense, would it not? It would make sense that God would not let churches close down, not let Christians become sick or even tempted! It would make sense that God would not let people kill other people or babies to be abandoned. It would make sense that God really wouldn't let His Son strike His foot on a stone, let alone be crucified. The devil in the third temptation tries to make us forget the way of the cross. He wants us to think that glory and honor comes before suffering, so that when we do suffer in this sinful and corrupt world, we'll give up. We'll think our faith is a sham, a fake, that God doesn't exist, or even if He does He isn't loving or caring. And when these thoughts come creeping into our minds, we have placed our own ways before God's and the devil smiles with delight.

We may look back at the events that took place in our Scripture reading, and wonder what the devil could be thinking or what on Earth was he doing. But the fact of the matter is, is that we really know what he was doing, he was playing his same old games that have worked so many times before on so many people, including ourselves. We are very familiar with the temptations that Jesus faced. On the one hand this says a lot about Jesus. Jesus was truly a human being, feeling temptations just as we do, yet Jesus is also truly God, able to perfectly keep the Law and fulfill the plan of salvation for fallen creation. On the other hand, seeing Jesus tempted may serve as a warning to us that the devil will put up a fight until he is finally destroyed. He will tempt you to take matters into your own hands, to complain that God, who sent His Son to die for you, has not given you enough. He will tempt you to worship false gods, to put your trust somewhere else besides the one true Triune God, who created this world and still looks after it. And lastly, he will tempt you to use the wisdom of this world, and deny your faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It may be by convincing you that a Christian would not have to suffer the result of living in a sinful world, or it may be convincing you that Jesus Christ was not God who was sacrificed for you.

This season of Lent is a season of self reflection and time to deepen our faith that is always under constant attack. And so whatever temptation that the devil throws at you look to our Gospel lesson this morning to see how even Jesus fended off the attacks of Satan. Three times, after three temptations, He quotes from the book of Deuteronomy. Using Holy Scripture is how even God fights off the devil in this War of the Word. We too are invited to use the Word of God as our sword to attack temptation. We may use the Law of God to find out what we should or should not do. We should use the Law of God to guide us in living Christians lives. We should use the Law of God to know that despite our best efforts to resist temptation, we sometimes fail. And so most importantly, not only do we use God's Law, but we also use His Gospel. For the Gospel of Christ is the power of Salvation for all those who believe in Christ. For all people have sinned against God and would stand condemned before God our judge, if it were not for Jesus' suffering. But because He did go and die on that cross, we are justified freely by God's grace through faith in

Christ. If the devil's temptations are a thorn in your side, take comfort in the Gospel of Christ and know that it is the reason we will celebrate with all the saints of heaven and earth on the victorious last day when Jesus comes again and devil will finally tempt no more.

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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**

- Harold Schoen - recovered after surgery
- John Hamm - recovering at Cottage Grove

#### **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**

- Pat Krekeler - hospitalization
- Luci Stoelting - recovering after fall
- Linda Patten - recovering after surgery
- Oliver (nephew of Darin & Maren Elm) - surgery on 3/11
- Clyde (friend of Dave Johnson) - health issues
- 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
- Ron Prescott - recovering after surgery
- Tom Larson - health issues
- Everly Zimmerman - knee injury
- Dave Christian - cancer treatment
- Deb Heitland - health issues
- Ethel Doehrmann - immunotherapy treatment

### **Homebound**

- Elda Joyner - at home

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

- Frank (uncle of Karen Swanson) - died 2/28
- Don (godfather of Noah Pelletier) - died 2/27
- Janice (grandmother of Darin Elm) - died 2/24
- Colleen (friend of Kroemers) - died 2/18

### **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
- Jordan (grandson of Kim Neuhaus) - IA National Guard

### **Collect of the Day**

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; 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, send your Holy Spirit into our hearts that He may rule and direct us according to Your will, comfort us in all our temptations and afflictions, defend us from all error, and lead us into all truth that we, being steadfast in faith, may increase in all good works and in the end obtain everlasting life; 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.**

