



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

March 16, 2025 A.D.

The Second 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 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 69 and 74

For zeal for your house has consumed me,
and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.

O God, why do you cast us off forever?

Why does your anger smoke against the sheep of your pasture?

Remember your congregation, which you have purchased of old, which you have redeemed to be the tribe of your heritage!

Remember Mount Zion, where you have dwelt.

Direct your steps to the perpetual ruins;

the enemy has destroyed everything in the sanctuary!

Scripture Lesson

(Luke 13:31-35)

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus], “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³²And he said to them, “Go and tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course. ³³Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.’ ³⁴O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! ³⁵Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’”

Sermon

In our Scripture lesson we read of rebellion. And today it seems as if we have a “love/hate” relationship with rebellion. Our country itself was founded by a group of people who were rebelling against the King of England. They didn’t want to pay unfair taxes or house soldiers in their homes, so they rebelled against England and eventually started a new country. We Americans

are proud of that history, that act of rebellion, or that fight for freedom. However, I'm sure that most of 18th century England was not as excited about that particular rebellion.

Well however you look at rebellion (good, bad, or evil), one thing is for sure, what rebellion is. Simply put, it's stepping outside of the rules. It's not just pushing the limits, but going way past them. Teenage rebellion is not accidentally coming home at 12:02 when curfew is Midnight. Rebellion is not coming home at all! Rebellion is not petitioning the government to change unfair taxation laws, it's getting dressed up in a disguise, sneaking aboard ships, and dumping tea overboard. And social scientists are very quick to point out that it is through rebellion, through those who step or live outside of the rules of society, that society is changed. What they mean is if everyone always followed the rules, we'd still be paying taxes to the King of England! Now this can be a good, what some would call progress, or a bad thing, often both by different people.

Take Adam and Eve, thinking that they would make real progress and be like God, they rebelled against Him. The Israelites rebelled during the Exodus by making and worshipping a golden calf, a god they could see and touch. This idolatry continued in the times of Jeremiah, and seems to have escalated into sacrificing their own children to foreign gods. When God had Jeremiah speak out against the people's rebellion, they wanted to kill him.

Today, I haven't seen golden calves in people's front yards or windows here in Eastern Iowa, but the rebellion is still there. Take pre-marital sex. At one time in our country, the Church, pointing to Holy Scripture and society as a whole said that having sex outside of marriage was simply wrong, and abstinence was the norm. Of course this norm was broken, but it seemed to be the rule, not just of God, but also of society. But then somewhere along the way, more and more people started stepping outside of the rules, and lo and behold, American culture has turned from largely a culture of abstinence, to that of one which hands out condoms in school and the morning after pill because they "know" that everybody is going to do it, so you might as well be "protected." There are those who view this as real progress, while Christians know that this is a sinful shift away from the will of God.

But even Christians get caught up in the spirit of rebellion. Often it seems that we are not happy with what God has given us. And instead of a loving father, we look at Him as a tyrannical king. So, in our great wisdom, we rebel. We don't rebel just to make Him angry, but we rebel against Him because we think we know what we're doing, and can improve our lives. And whenever we rebel against God, even though we might think it's just a little bit, we smash through the Law. And that one act of rebellion, which through our eyes looks beneficial and like progress, through God's eyes it is sin. So even if we gain material possessions or some sort of pleasure by our rebellion, we ultimately lose our souls to sin.

Yet despite our rebellion against God, He continues to love us. *"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings,"* Jesus speaks as He travels to Jerusalem in our Scripture reading. Jesus knows the history Israel, He knows their rebellion. Yet still, He longs to bring them together and to love and protect them. Jesus in our text, is traveling to Jerusalem to die for the sins of the world. No one is making Him to this. He does so willingly, despite the fact that He knows the people are not willing to be gathered. And therefore their house, the temple or perhaps the nation itself, will be left desolate, it will be abandoned by God, who's very presence among them gives them their identity. While this sounds like punishment, this is the best News you or I could ever hear. For no longer does God make His dwelling in a building in Jerusalem, or just among one group of people. No longer must sacrifices be offered there day after day! Because Jesus went to that city and gave up His life as the perfect sacrifice for all people. He is

the new Temple and all those who come to Him, Jew and Non-Jew alike find God's grace and mercy. Living with God's grace and mercy, the punishment for our rebellion against God is now taken away from all those who gather under the cross of Christ.

This is the love that God has for us and nothing can stop it. Jesus tells us that it is impossible for a prophet to die outside of Jerusalem, that He must go there. John the Baptist says that every valley will be filled and every mountain and hill made low, that creation itself will not get in Christ's way. Last week we saw how the temptations of the devil himself could not keep Jesus from the cross. Today we read of how the Pharisees, with the threats of King Herod, try to have Jesus leave the area, and He still goes to Jerusalem where He will die. What then can keep this love of God from you? This love that nature nor mountains nor kings, nor even the prince of darkness cannot stop? Nothing - not even your own rebellion against God.

For just as Jesus knew of Jerusalem's rebellion when He went to Jerusalem to offer Himself their sin, He also knew of your sin, and of all your pain & guilt caused by sin. And knowing that, He did not stop His journey to the cross. In fact it is for this very reason that Christ traveled to the city of Jerusalem.

Today, as you continue our journey through Lent, ponder how you have treated God in your life, and the strength He has given you to please Him, and the forgiveness He gives you when you fail. Look to the cross and not only see the cost of your forgiveness, but see God's love for you there as well. And as this love of God becomes clearer and clearer in our lives we'll see that there is no need for our rebellion against God. For while He is a King, He is not tyrant. Rather He has given His only Son to die, so that we could live and live in His Kingdom. 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

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

- Derek (son of Hackbardts) - recovering after surgery
- Kelly Johnson - life issues
- Pat Krekeler - recovering after hospitalization
- Luci Stoelting - recovering after fall
- Linda Patten - recovering after surgery
- Oliver (nephew of Darin & Maren Elm) - recovering after surgery
- Clyde (friend of Dave Johnson) - health issues
- Shannon (relative of Tim Potter) - cancer
- 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

- Cindy Broadwater - Harmony House

Mourning, friends and family of

- Frank (uncle of Karen Swanson) - died 2/28
- Don (godfather of Noah Pelletier) - died 2/27

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 God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; 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

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.

