



# Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

April 6, 2025 A.D.

The 5<sup>th</sup> 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.**

## Opening Versicles (Lent)

This is the day which the Lord has made;

**let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

From the rising of the sun to its setting,

**the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,  
**slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.**

Jesus said: If any man would come after Me,

**let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.**

Christ was wounded for our transgressions.

**He was wounded for our iniquities.**

From the rising of the sun to its setting,

**the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

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## Scripture Lesson

(Luke 7:11-17)

<sup>11</sup>Soon afterward [Jesus] went to a town called Nain, and His disciples and a great crowd went with Him. <sup>12</sup>As He drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her. <sup>13</sup>And when the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.” <sup>14</sup>Then He came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And He said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.” <sup>15</sup>And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. <sup>16</sup>Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has arisen among us!” and “God has visited His people!” <sup>17</sup>And this report about Him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country.

## Sermon

Last week, during our Midweek Service, we focused on Jesus' healing and compassionate hand. Though Jesus did not need to touch the leper, out of compassion, He did just that (Matthew 8:1-17). Of course, anyone who touches someone who is unclean becomes unclean. But when the Lord reached down and touched the leper, He didn't become unclean. Instead, Jesus heals the man, making him clean. Thus, we see that Jesus has the authority to heal the sick and make clean. But what can He do for those who have already died?

Well, Jesus has another encounter in our Scripture Reading today. In our reading from Luke, there are two processions. One is the Lord heading toward the town of Nain, followed by a great crowd. But coming from the opposite direction, just outside of the city gates, there is a different sort of procession. Here, people are wailing and mourning. This procession is a procession of death, which touched a young man who is now being carried to his place of burial. His mother, a widow, has lost her only son. And in this time and place, she likely would have no other option but to be a beggar with outstretched, empty hands, just to provide the necessities of life. She is now completely left on her own to live in this sorrow, overshadowed by the hand of death that touched her life by taking her husband and now her only son.

What will happen when the procession led by Jesus, the Lord of Life, meets the procession led by the hand of death? What will happen when life and death touch each other? We know all too well what happens in this world. We have seen it time and again. We know from experience that when life touches death, death seems to snatch life away. It doesn't matter how old or how young, when death touches life, death always seems to get the upper hand.

But as these processions approach, Jesus has compassion. The Greek word used here by Luke is almost always used in reference to Jesus' kind of compassion. And it is a gut-wrenching compassion. Jesus is not indifferent to the touch of death upon people. He sees this sorrow as they carry this young man upon the bier, and He has deep compassion.

Now, what does He do with His hands? Just like our Reading about the healing of the leper from last week, there is the concern of becoming unclean by touching a dead body. But Jesus reaches out and touches the bier, and the bearers stop. Jesus' hand stops this procession of death in its tracks. He says, "*Do not weep. . . . Young man, I say to you, arise.*" No longer a corpse, he sits up, alive! Not only that but he is also speaking!

The people at last knew that Jesus was coming with prophetic power. Like Elijah and Elisha before Him, Jesus raises a woman's only son and gives him back to his mother. But Jesus is even more. Elijah and Elisha relied on the hand of the Lord to act. Jesus acts of His own power and authority. Jesus is *the* Hand of the Lord. And when the Hand of the Lord touches death, He gives life. When Jesus touches this procession of death, He transforms it into a procession of life.

And of course, there is more with Elisha. After he died and was buried in 2 Kings 13, Moabites came into the land. And as they were burying another man, they threw the body into the grave of Elisha. And as soon as that man touched the bones of Elisha, he stood up, alive! God even turned touching the bones of Elisha into something that was life-giving.

But while the resurrections of the dead in the Old Testament foreshadow what our Lord will do on the Last Day, our Lord is even more than a prophet. For while He truly took upon Himself our human flesh, Jesus is more than just a man - He is also fully God at the same time.

So, what will happen when Jesus touches death in His own body? Well, that is just what He did on the cross. He was led on a procession of death, forced to carry the instrument of His own death, taking the just penalty for our sin, even though He did not sin. He willingly came into

contact with death firsthand as He died and was buried. But when the Lord touched death, He brought life. Three days later, He rose from the dead, never to die again (Romans 6:9). He defeated death once for all time. This is the kind of resurrection that Paul is speaking about in 1 Corinthians 15 as Jesus broke death's grip on all of our lives.

That is just what Baptism has brought to you. *“For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His”* (Romans 6:5). When Christ touches you through His Word and Sacrament, death is stopped in its tracks. Your sins are forgiven and death does not have the final hold over you. Even though we still suffer the effects of our sin in this life, which bring about death, we are now a part of the living because we are united to Jesus. So, when Christ returns, even our bodies will also be raised on the Last Day. For when Jesus' life touches death, death is stopped in its tracks and life proceeds.

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### 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**

- Noah Pelletier traveling to Moldova serving Ukrainian refugees
- 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**

- Abi Clark - health issues
- Linda Patten - recovering after surgery
- Rick Foreman - recovering after surgery
- Kelly Johnson - life issues
- Pat Krekeler - health issues
- Ron Prescott - recovering after surgery
- Tom Larson - health issues
- Dave Christian - cancer treatment
- Deb Heitland - health issues
- Ethel Doehrmann - immunotherapy treatment

#### **Homebound**

- Dorothy Freese - Keystone Cedars

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

- Kim (relative of Shirley Witte) - died 3/19

#### **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
- Harrison (son of Siecks)- US Army, Germany

### Collect of the Day

Heavenly Father, You sent Jesus with your compassion and love to defeat all sin, death, and evil. Bless us this night that we may ever hold fast to His promises for us through His death and resurrection. And help us to always remember our Baptism, where we have been united to Christ in all things; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

### Concluding Prayers

Almighty God, You bless the earth to make it fruitful, bringing forth in abundance whatever is needed for the support of our lives. Prosper the work of farmers and all those who labor to bring to our table. Grant them seasonable weather that they may gather in the fruits of the earth in abundance and proclaim your goodness with thanksgiving; 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.**



#### **Please join us for Holy Week Services**

Maundy Thursday - April 17, Divine Service at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday - April 18, Divine Service at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday - April 20, Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m.

Easter Sunday - April 20, Traditional Service at 8:30 a.m.

Easter Sunday - April 20, Contemporary Service at 11:00 a.m.