



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

April 20, 2025

Easter!

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.

Introit

(From Exodus 15)

I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;

he horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.

The LORD is my strength and my song,

and he has become my salvation.

Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power,

your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy.

You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed;

you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode.

You will bring them in and plant them on your own mountain,

the place, O LORD, which you have made for your abode,

the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have established.

The LORD will reign forever and ever.

Scripture Lesson

(Luke 24:1-12)

¹On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. ²And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. ⁵And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” ⁸And they remembered his words, ⁹and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, ¹¹but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹²But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and

looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

Sermon

Grace, Mercy, and Peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
Amen.

“If Christ has not been raised from the dead, our preaching is useless and so is your faith” St. Paul writes in the Holy Scriptures. If the two Marys and Joanna were able to rub the corpse of Jesus with their spices, or if the body had been stolen or hidden, then everything that is said from this pulpit, everything that takes place in this sanctuary or this building would be a waste of time. But more than that, if Peter burst into the tomb on that first Easter morning and saw the strips of linen around Jesus instead of by themselves, it’s just not our faith that is destroyed, but any hope that we have in our lives as well.

In June of 1815 all of England was on pins and needles waiting to hear news about the Battle of Waterloo, where the Duke of Wellington was fighting England’s long time enemy – Napoleon. At long last, a message was being signaled across the English Channel. The words, “Wellington Defeated” had just been spelled out when a thick blanket of fog obscured the signals. News of the disaster quickly spread throughout England, and deep gloom settled on the land. But when the fog lifted the rest of the message was completed, “the enemy!” Wellington defeated the enemy and England was thrown into a great celebration.

When Peter walked out of the empty tomb his head was spinning – he marveled at what had happened. Until moments before he and the rest of the disciples had thought that Jesus had been defeated. And with the defeat of Jesus, came their defeat and indeed a crushing loss for all of us. Jesus had always taught that He was going to be the one sent by God to save people from their sin – and indeed, Jesus showed the disciples that He was God – God in the flesh. But on Good Friday, Peter saw Jesus tried, convicted, and killed. The words over the cross read, “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews” but it might as well have read to those gathered around, “Jesus Defeated.” But now, seeing the strips of linen laying there were Jesus’ body used to be, Peter got the rest of the message, the message that is proclaimed throughout the world today. The message that “Jesus has defeated our Enemy.”

Our enemy is the devil and his work is sin and death. And it is not just on Good Friday, but in just about everyday of our lives that it seems the devil has won. Whenever someone steals our credit card or checking account information, whenever homes burn down, whenever a person is diagnosed with cancer or heart problems, whenever someone dies – it seems as if the devil has won. That Jesus, our Lord and Savior has been defeated.

This is the world that we are used to. The world where the nice guy finishes last and the good die young. But this is the world of our sin that we and our ancestors have brought about and because the devil tempts us to sin or turn away from living how God wants us to, we find that nobody is really a nice guy all the time, nor is anyone good in the same way. Yet we know that we still finish last, so to speak and we really do die.

But as Peter left the tomb he was amazed because this world that we are familiar with is no more. Christ has risen from the dead, and defeated our enemy and all his work. Our sin is no longer, for God has forgiven it. And if our sin is forgiven, where is death. And without fear of sin and death, Satan has no power over us.

The victory is ours. Sure, of course we still become sick, we experience evil, we still die, we still sin. We've already said that. But more importantly than what we do is what Christ has done – risen from the dead, and our faith is not in vein! For as St. Paul says, “We were buried [therefore] with his through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the father, we too may have a new life.” And “if we have been united with Jesus like this in his death, we will certainly be united with him in his resurrection!” We rejoice this day that Christ has risen from the dead, because through His resurrection we, and all believers, shall rise from the grave.

In the laboratory of the English Chemist Michael Faraday, a valuable silver goblet was accidentally dropped by a careless worker into a vat of acid. Immediately the acid attacked the silver, eating away at it atom by atom until it completely disappeared from view. The workman was in despair, thinking that all was lost, but the great chemist knew that while no longer visible, only the form of the silver had changed. With just the right amount of chemicals poured into the solution, Faraday quickly precipitated and gathered the silver back out of the acid. Sent to a silversmith with the proper design, the goblet was returned to the laboratory – none the worse for its' strange journey and perhaps even with purer silver than before.

Let none of us ever be fooled into thinking that Christians do not have the final victory through Christ our Lord. Let none of us be thrown into the despair of thinking that we have lost our battles against cancer or any illness, or even death itself! Let the thought that our lives are not important, never take root in our minds. For even in the midst of a hopeless world, in the midst of what appears to be our the greatest defeat, Christ has won the victory for us. Atom by atom, or however God chooses, our bodies though destroyed by death, will be gathered together and raised from death into new, and everlasting life. This is our hope for all of the days to come– a sure a certain hope in what is to come, for Christ has risen. He has indeed – praise be to God. 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

- Bonnie Bubke - 90th birthday on 4/25

Entrusting into God's Care

- Pat (mother of Karen Swanson) - Parkinson's disease
- 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

- Phyllis Landis - health issues
- Jill (relative of Sue Kroemer) - cancer treatment
- Millie Zimmerman - recovering after surgery
- Ruby (relative of Emily Kroemer) - recovering after surgery
- Abi Clark - health issues
- Linda Patten - recovering at Cottage Grove after surgery
- Rick Foreman - recovering at home 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

- Marge Grovert - Ridgeview Assisted Living

Mourning, friends and family of

- Rick (relative of Ann & Dan Balvanz)- died 4/16
- Linda (sister of Bonnie Breiholz) - died 4/16
- Tom (grandfather of Taylor Chittick) - died 4/14
- Marty (relative of Greg Dunn)- died 3/28
- 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

Almighty God the Father, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Concluding Prayers

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love You and seek the good things that are above; through Jesus Christ, our risen 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.