



# Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

April 27, 2025 A.D.

The Second Sunday of 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

*(I Peter 2 and Psalm 105)*

**P** Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—

**C** **if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.**

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;

**make known his deeds among the peoples!**

Sing to him, sing praises to him;

**tell of all his wondrous works!**

Glory in his holy name;

**let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!**

Seek the LORD and his strength;

**seek his presence continually!**

Remember the wondrous works that he has done,

**his miracles, and the judgments he uttered.**

He remembers his covenant forever,

**the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.**

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## Scripture Lesson

*(John 20:19-31)*

<sup>19</sup>On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup>When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup>And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld.”

<sup>24</sup>Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

<sup>26</sup>Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.”

<sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup>but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

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

I'm sure that almost all of us gathered here today know the feeling. One morning I woke up, and after the letting the dog out, I poured myself a bowl of cereal. Of course you need milk on your cereal, so I was a little concerned when I noticed the expiration date on the milk jug had passed. But I thought to myself, "Those dates are just suggestions. It's not like at the stroke of midnight your milk turns from a liquid to a rotten solid." So, I poured the milk on the cereal, sprinkled on a little artificial sweetener, and grabbed my spoon. Apparently, my sense of smell was still in bed that morning, otherwise I would have surely noticed the foul stench of spoiled milk as I took the first bite of my Cheerios. Of course, my sense of taste let me know that the expiration date are not suggestions, and that I was in fact drinking spoiled milk. After a quick trip over to the sink, and several glasses of water to get the taste out of my mouth, I sat in the kitchen. I sat there hungry and disappointed. Unable to eat the cereal, I was of course still hungry, but I was also disappointed that I had just wasted a whole bowl of cereal. While most of us know the feeling of discovering something that we enjoy being spoiled or ruined, Peter in our Epistle lesson tells us that there is one treasure that we have that is "*imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.*"

Today, we are reminded that Christians celebrate Christ's rising from the grave not just year after year on Easter, but day after day, everyday of their lives because, as Peter writes, it is through the resurrection of Christ that God, "*has caused us to be born again to a living hope.*" Now every person is born at least once, but because we are born sinful, the life that all people are born into ends in death. "*Flesh gives birth to flesh...*" says Jesus in John 3. "*Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.*" writes David. Scripture makes it clear that we are born sinful, and yet this says nothing about the sins that we actually commit! All of the sins that we actually do from the time that we are born, until right now. All of the drunkenness, all of the adultery, the murder, the stealing, the idolatry that if we don't outright do, we at least do in our hearts. And with all of this sin that drives a wedge between us and God it seems as if there is no way for us to be near to God. No way to be loved by Him.

But out of His mercy, He does love us. So much so that He gave His only, innocent, and pure Son as a sacrifice of atonement for all of our sins. The punishment for our sins has been carried out - God punished His Son Jesus. And now that Jesus has risen, we see that the sacrifice was acceptable, the punishment is over, and now we have forgiveness. This is our inheritance. There is nothing we did to deserve this, but we receive it because by our faith, which is itself given to us by God, because we are His children. This inheritance can not be taken away from us. It is ours to keep forever. It will never rot or spoil. Satan has already tried His best to keep this from you. But even he, along with the power of death, could not keep Christ in the tomb and from giving you eternal life. The inheritance of the faithful is now protected by God, and there is nothing that can cause it to be taken from you.

Yet despite our new birth into eternal life with Christ, despite the witnesses of the apostles and the evangelists, there are stumbling blocks that people trip over. These stumbling blocks place doubt in the minds of the believers and cause the unbeliever to scoff at our faith. One such block that causes people to fall is the so-called problem of suffering. Christians have a great promise, a great hope for the future. This hope rests upon what is now, what is current, that is our faith in Christ, which tells us how much God cares for us. Yet despite all of the hope, the promise of life and forgiveness, and the overwhelming love that God shows to us through Jesus Christ, many people have a problem that Christians still suffer. We "*have been grieved by various trials*" St. Peter writes. If God really is on our side, if Christ did rise from the dead as Thomas saw, why do we suffer?

In society in general, and even in the Church, we hear people including myself sometimes, throwing around catchy little phrases or ideas to help with this problem of suffering. We say things like, "Every cloud has a silver lining" or "Whenever God closes a door, He opens a window". There are many more I'm sure that you can think of. But they all basically say that when we suffer, something good will come from it. While this should

be true, the good that comes from our suffering is not always what we think it is. In v. 7 Peter says these trials have come so that your faith may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed when He returns again.

The suffering of a Christian happens so that a greater good may be accomplished, but the greater good has nothing to do with doors, windows, or clouds - but rather your faith. Your health, wealth, family and friends may all fail you, and cause honest and sincere suffering, but this suffering is meant to have you trust all the more in Christ who will never fail you. This trust in Christ is your faith, and as Peter says is more precious than gold, than anything. And so, any good that comes from suffering, only comes when our faith shown to be genuine to others and to us and in the process strengthened.

And so we see that our suffering, no matter who we are, or how hard we have worked for God, or what we have done in our lives, always should bring us back to God. Christian suffering does not mean God has turned his back on us, but rather He is causing our faith to grow and be strengthened. It may not sound like a lot of fun, and to be sure suffering never is. But if it is for the good of our faith, which is by far the most important thing we have as Christians, Peter says that we should rejoice in our suffering. We should be happy, that God is causing our Faith to grow, and ensuring that our treasure, our inheritance of eternal life is waiting for us with Him. For the Word of God is clear that it is through Faith in Christ alone, that not only do we receive righteousness and salvation, but that through faith our inheritance is also kept safe and waiting for us. Amen.

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

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### The Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth  
and 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.**

### **Thanksgiving**

- Simon (son of Chris and Kelly Frampton) - born 4/23

### **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**

- Shannon (relative of Tim Potter) - cancer  
- 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**

- Pat Krekeler - at home

### **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

### **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**

Let us pray... Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **Concluding Prayers**

Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us perfectly to know Your Son, Jesus Christ, to be the way, the truth, and the life, that following His steps we may steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life everlasting; 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.**