



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

May 4, 2025 A.D.

Confirmation Sunday (Easter 3)

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 Psalm 145)

All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,
and all your saints shall bless you!
One generation shall commend your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.
On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.
They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,
and I will declare your greatness.
They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.
The LORD is good to all,
and his mercy is over all that he has made.

Scripture Lesson

(Revelation 5)

¹Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ²And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” ³And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, ⁴and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”

⁶And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. ⁸And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹And they sang a new song, saying,

*“Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals,
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
¹⁰and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth.”*

¹¹Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹²saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” ¹³And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” ¹⁴And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Sermon

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

What do the people you live and work with think of Jesus? In a book called *Your God Is Too Small*, J.B. Phillips notes that some view Him as sort of an inner policeman – that troubles them and gnaws away at their consciences. Or perhaps they view Christ as a “meek and mild” man – the “pale Galilean” who wouldn’t hurt a fly and who died a tragic martyr’s death to uphold His principles. Or maybe they know Christ as a “secondhand God” or as a “God in a box” – neatly wrapped up with all the answers they need in a little pocket Bible they carry with them. But while all of these conceptions of Christ have elements of truth about them, they do not give us the full picture of our Lord and Savior.

If we know people who tend to think of Christ as smaller than He is, or even if we ourselves think this way at times, we should not be too harsh with these misconceptions. After all - we even see the disciples have trouble wrapping their minds around the holy and infinite Christ. Reading the Gospels the humanity of Christ is clear, but His divinity is sometimes masked or covered up.

But there are those who not only know the Jesus with dirty feet and hands with nail holes in them. There are those who have seen Christ Glorified. St. Stephen turned his eyes to heaven just before he was killed and saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God the Father in Heaven. St. Paul was blinded with a great light of Christ, and was taken to heaven himself to hear things that words cannot describe. In both these cases we don’t know what exactly was seen or heard by Stephen or Paul, but with St. John in text today, we have an incredible record of all that he saw when he was taken by the Spirit to heaven and shown the glorified Christ. We have this record of Christ being revealed to the Church in the book of Revelation, and just as St. Stephen was strengthened by his vision of Christ in heaven at the time of his death, and just as St. Paul could no longer persecute Christians, but spread the Christian faith when He saw and heard the glorified Christ – so is every Christian strengthened and emboldened when they encounter Jesus as He really is.

When St. John looks into heaven, he sees God the Father seated on the throne of Heaven holding a scroll with writing on the front and back, in His right hand – the hand of salvation. This scroll is for the ultimate good and glory of God’s people. And with its seven seals not just anyone can read this scroll. In fact a mighty angel asks, “*Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?*” Who is worthy to save God’s people from evil? Who can deliver them from sickness and disease? Who can stop the flooding? The storms? The addiction? The bullets?

John weeps because no one on earth can. There are no doctors or politicians who can open this scroll. No generals, no police officers, or even pastors who are worthy. No one here, no one on earth is worthy because we ourselves are sinners and bring about evil into the world. Perhaps not the evil on the grand scale that makes the news, but evil nonetheless that separates us from God. And so, John weeps the same tears that have fallen in our lives. The tears of pain and loneliness. The tears that have fallen at St. Lukes, at Mercy, at Cedar Memorial. The same weeping that is done privately in our own homes.

But just when it seems that no one will be able to open this scroll, when no one will be able to save us from evil and bring God’s love and joy into lives that only know hate and misery, John is told to weep no more. And a Lamb, a Lamb that looks as if it had been killed, goes to the throne and takes the scroll that no one can open. And when the Lamb of God takes this scroll, all of heaven bursts out into song: “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals” the elders say. “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain” sings thousands of angels. “To the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever”, cries all of creation.

While God’s people struggle in the world today, God shows us His Son Jesus through St. John’s writing. And just as St. Stephen was able to face being stoned to death when He saw His savior sitting at the right hand of God, there is nothing that we cannot face seeing Christ there as well. We may not be taken to heaven to see this glorious vision, but the same Holy Spirit, who did take John there, shows us this incredible sight in the Bible.

And so when we face evil, as we surely will until we sleep in Christ, we don’t just look for someone to blame or try harder to make sure evil never happens again. We turn to the One who has conquered it and promised to see us through it. We turn to Christ and know that not only is He the kind and gentle savior that walked through the dusty roads of the Holy Land with His disciples. He is Lamb of God who died to take away our sin, has risen from the dead, and is now reigning over all of creation at the Father’s right hand, where St. Paul says in Romans 8, He works all things, everything that is written on that scroll, for the good of those who love him. 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

- Confirmation
- Ruby (relative of Emily Kroemer) - recovered after surgery

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

- Luci Stoelting - recovering at Garnet Place after fall
- LaVonne (mother of Steve Hanchera) - recovering after surgery
- Phyllis Landis - health issues
- Millie Zimmerman - 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

- Elda Joyner - at home

Mourning, friends and family of

- Rick (relative of Ann & Dan Balvanz) - died 4/16
- Linda (sister of Bonnie Breiholz) - died 4/16

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

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, 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.