



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

March 8th, 2026 A.D.

3rd 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 responses 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 84)

Blessèd are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

How lovely is your dwelling place,

O LORD of hosts!

My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young,

at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

Blessèd are those who dwell in your house,

ever singing your praise!

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Scripture Lesson

(John 4:5-26)

⁵[Jesus] came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

⁷There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where

do you get that living water? ¹²Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.” ¹³Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” ¹⁵The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.”

¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” ¹⁷The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.” ¹⁹The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.” ²¹Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” ²⁵The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.” ²⁶Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.”

Sermon *(A copy is included at the end of this service.)*

Apostles’ Creed

☩ I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven And sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; The holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; The forgiveness of sins; The resurrection of the body; And the life ☩ everlasting. 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

- Mike Raymon– recovering after surgery
- Emily Kroemer - recovering after broken ankle
- Michelle Hedtke - recovered after surgery
- Joleen Trent - recovered after surgery

Entrusting into God's Care

- Project 24 students
- Victims of violence

Healing

- Larry Kroemer– recovering after hospitalization
- Philip Hackbardt– recovering after surgery
- Vern Piering– recovering after surgery
- Dave Johnson– recovering after surgery
- Shirley Witte - recovering after surgery
- Mary Jane (mother of Phil Hedtke)- recovering after surgery
- Kaylee (relative of Hedtkes)- health issues
- Madeline (daughter of E Kroemer)- pregnancy complications
- Amber (friend of Urbans)- cancer treatment
- Tom Larson - recovering after surgery
- Stacy Kirkpatrick - recovering after cardiac procedure
- Linda Patten - recovering after surgery
- Abi Clark - health issues

Homebound

- Elda Joyner– at home in FL

Mourning, Friends and Family of

- Mike (relative of Kristi Montague)- died 3/4
- Mike Duggan (former member)- died 2/14
- Parker (friend of the Diers family)- died 2/14

Serving Our Country

- Charles Clark - IA National Guard
- Hunter (husband of Sarah Ealy) - IA National Guard
- Eli (brother of Ashton Berberich) - Marines
- 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
- Mitchell & Benjamin (relatives of Schoens & Smiths) - US Navy
- Jordan (grandson of Kim Neuhaus) - IA National Guard

Collect of the Day

Let us pray...O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; 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.



Beth's father had a wonderful gift to give to her and her brother Vick – and this gift was fantastic. It was the type of gift that can only be given by someone who really knows the other person well. Their father may or may not have spent a lot of money on the gift, maybe he made it with his own hands and with own skill, but either way – it was priceless and he knew that Beth and her brother would absolutely love it. He couldn't wait for that moment to arrive when he'd see the joy on their faces upon receiving such a precious gift.

But at the moment, Beth, his daughter wasn't around. So he asked his son Vick to bring Beth to him so he could give them this gift. The father even told Vick about the gift, how important it was; how much effort had gone into getting it; and how much it will mean to both him and his sister when they would both receive it.

So Vick left to go get his sister. But something terrible happened along the way. Vick decides that he doesn't believe his father. Vick believes that it's simply impossible for his father to have such a perfect gift. And even if he did, Vick doesn't believe that his father would actually give it to someone like him and his sister. So Vick reasons with himself, that even if his father did have this amazing gift, and even if he did want to give it to him and his sister Beth, they don't need it and so he tells himself that he doesn't want it.

So, when Vick finally meets Beth, he tells her that their father does has something to give them, but that it's completely different than what their father actually has. In fact he makes it sound like it's something that Beth has to earn or that she doesn't really need. So Beth never goes to her father to receive his gift, and instead spends her time hanging out with her brother, who has

misrepresented their father and lied to and deceived his sister. Now how do you think the father will feel when he finds out what Vick has done? What would Beth say if she found out that she had been cheated out of such a wonderful gift from her father?

In our Gospel lesson today we find Jesus resting by a well of water in the region of Samaria, when he asks a Samaritan woman from the town for a drink. This surprises the women because she is able to figure out that Jesus is Jewish. You see at the time, Jews and Samaritans did not get along all that well. Hundreds of years before, the Assyrians captured most of the Jews in Samaria and led them away into captivity. They then brought in people from other nations who started families and communities with the Jews that did remain. The problem was, that these people from other nations brought with them their various false religions. So when they began to interact with the Jews left in Samaria, a sort of hybrid religion began to take place, that was very different from the covenant that God had with His people at the time.

For instance, since the days of King Saul, God had told His people to worship at the temple in Jerusalem. But the Samaritans worshipped on Mt. Gerizim to the north, in their own land. This is why the woman says to Jesus, *“Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.”*

Today, many of us might not appreciate the differences between the Jews and Samaritans of Jesus’ time. And in fact, Jesus Himself tells this woman by the well, *“...the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.”* Jesus’ words proved true when, in 70 A.D. the temple in Jerusalem was destroyed by the Roman legions, effectively ending worship in the temple there to this very day. But just because Jesus tells this woman **WHERE** she worships may not matter, let us not be deceived into thinking that the **WHO** and **HOW** of worship is unimportant.

Because Jesus goes on to tell this woman, *“The hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth.”* To worship the true God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit - you need to do so in Truth. You can’t do it with lies. Because God wants us to know the truth of who He is. He wants us to know the truth of what He is like and what He has done, so that we can respond and act accordingly. Because being misled by falsehoods not only keeps us from knowing God, it leads to worship that is empty of His gifts, as well as lives that stray from His ways.

Just think of Vick and Beth. Their father loved his children and wanted to give them that precious gift. But Vick didn’t believe his father could do such a thing and he convinced Beth with lies that she didn’t need this gift, so she failed to come and see him. How upset would their father be that his gift would not be given because of a lie? How disappointed when Beth would finally find out the truth what she had missed?

Sadly, today there are Christians that are withholding the precious gifts from our Heavenly Father by telling others that what God says is not true. Claiming to adhere to the truth themselves, they make God out to be a liar. When God’s Word says, *“All Scripture is breathed out by God...”* in II Timothy 3:16, they will say that the Bible is not the Word of God, but only that parts of it may contain the Word of God. When God tells us in His Word that Baptism saves us, I Peter 3, they will put on their websites that Baptism does not save, but only indicates that one has been saved. They’ll go so far as to call baptism an ordinance – which the dictionary defines as a law set forth by an authority. Thus during this wonderful Gospel gift of God, into a work that they must do or else.

When well-meaning Christians make God out to be liar; when they say His Word is not true, when they take the precious gifts of God’s Word and Sacraments and turn them into a work

of the law or say they are something different than what they are or that God's children do not need what they offer – God cannot be happy and these people do not worship in Spirit or in Truth as Jesus says that true worshippers do.

In our text this morning, the woman at the well is no saint. Currently she is in an adulterous relationship with a man who is not her husband. But Jesus reveals God's Truth to her. He tells her that He is the Messiah. So she runs and tells others from her village about Jesus so that they know the truth. The last we hear, these Samaritans tell the woman, "*We know that this is the Savior of the World.*" Having been taught the truth from the Lord, she is then able to do what God wants.

For these of us have that desire to a true worshipper of God; those who not only want to know God as He wants to be known, but also to worship Him and do His will; - go to or stay in the place where you will always find the truth. Stay in God's Word. Study the Scriptures and receive His precious gifts as what they are. For there, we don't find the lies of men and women - we find the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Who died so that everyone may be forgiven, regardless of their sin, and so that we may also have the strength to worship and live as God wants – and that is in His Truth. Amen.

