



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

March 22ND, 2026 A.D.

5th 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 116)

Precious in the sight of the LORD
is the death of his saints.

I love the LORD, because he has heard
my voice and my pleas for mercy.

Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.

Then I called on the name of the LORD:

“O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!”

For you have delivered my soul from death,
my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.

Scripture Lesson

(John 11:17-27, 38-45)

¹⁷Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” ²³Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”

³⁸Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." ⁴⁴The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him.

Sermon *(This Sunday, Pastor Francik will be preaching at Bethany while I'm away. You may watch Pastor Francik's sermon online Sunday evening or Monday morning. For those unable to watch Pastor Francik, I've included a sermon on our Gospel reading at the end of this document. – Pastor Erickson)*

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

- Stacy Kirkpatrick - recovered after procedure

Entrusting into God's Care

- LCMS Missionaries

Healing

- Vern Happel- health issues
- John Miller - (BIL of Donna Stranathan)- health issues
- Larry Kroemer– recovering after hospitalization
- Philip Hackbardt– recovering after surgery
- Jeannine Robinson– 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
- Linda Patten - recovering after surgery
- Abi Clark - health issues

Homebound

- Carol Grimminger - Cottage Grove

Mourning, Friends and Family of

- Doris (mother of Dawn Thomas)- died 3/9
- Mike (relative of Kristi Montague)- died 3/4
- Paul (relative of Jim Heitland)- died 3/2

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... Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; 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.



Our reading from John’s Gospel this morning takes place around the village of Bethany – a name that should ring a bell for most of us, not only because that is the name of our congregation, but also because St. John seems to go out of his way to talk about this village of Bethany. Earlier in chapter 11 of John, he tells us that this is the village in which Lazarus and Mary and Martha live. And in our text he gives the details that Bethany was very close to Jerusalem, less than two miles. This last detail that John gives seems to suggest that John believed what Jesus was going to do in Bethany, was a foreshadowing of what was to happen in Jerusalem just a short time later during Holy Week.

You see, in both our text for today at Bethany and in Jerusalem during Holy Week you have Jesus arriving at the village or city. In both cases you have people running out to meet Jesus and giving Him praise. Eventually, there will be a dead man and a tomb in both places. And of course, both places see the dead miraculously come back to life. It seems that John wants us to know that our reading for today is to be understood in the context of Easter. Which is good, because in Bethany, back in Mary and Martha’s time, as well as at Bethany today, there might be some confusion around Jesus and the resurrection.

Our text this morning picks up after Jesus has already been told that his friend Lazarus is sick and Jesus tells the disciples that he has actually died. So, by the time Jesus approaches Bethany, Lazarus has already been in the tomb for four days. According to Jewish custom, the spirit of the dead would often remain around their fleshly body for three days, but on the fourth day, when it was common for the flesh to decay beyond recognition, it was said that the spirit of the deceased would depart for good. What this meant for Lazarus was that by the time Jesus arrived, Lazarus wasn’t just dead – he was really dead.

As Jesus comes to Bethany, Martha – who was Lazarus’ sister – runs out to meet Jesus and says, “*Lord, if you have been here, my brother would not have died.*” Martha doesn’t seem to be angry or accusing Jesus here, rather she knows Jesus’ power and how He had helped so many people before. And then in v.22 Martha says to Jesus, “*But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.*” This should be a bit of a warning to many of us.

The reason for this is that while Martha loves Jesus and knows that He is wise and can do miracles, she also fails to recognize that He is also God. She doesn’t say, “You can do this because you are God.” She says, “Whatever you ask of God, God will do or give you.” Did you notice

the disconnect? Jesus seems to have, because when He tells Martha that Lazarus will rise again, and she says that she knows this will eventually happen on the Last Day, Jesus replies with one of His great “I Am” statements.

Throughout the Old Testament God had revealed by saying His name is Yahweh – a name that is essentially the Hebrew verb “to be”. Thus at the burning bush when Moses asked God what name He was to be called, God said, “I Am I Am”. God uses this name, Yahweh, for Himself over 5000 times in the Old Testament. John, in his Gospel, tells us that Jesus often alluded to this very name, applying it to Himself. So, when Jesus says, “I am the Bread of Life” (6:35), Jesus is not just saying that He is necessary for survival, He is claiming to be God - Yahweh Himself.

So, when Jesus says in our text today, “*I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live...*” Jesus is not just saying that Lazarus will rise again, He is saying Lazarus will rise again by His power as God! Jesus is telling us that He is the one who gives life and takes away. His hand lifts people up out of Sheol (Amos 9).

This link between Jesus, God, and the resurrection is witnessed to in the rest of Scripture. For in Romans 6:4 we read, “*We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father...*” So, Martha wasn’t wrong in saying God would raise the dead. But Jesus Himself says earlier in John 10(17-18a), “*For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again.*” The power of the resurrection is with Jesus, who is the One True God.

The reason this is important to point out to the people of Bethany today is not so that we can confess the mystery of God’s Triune Nature or because we don’t recognize the divine nature of Christ. I think that most of us believe that Jesus is God. But, I also believe that there are times of need in all of our lives. Like Martha, whose brother died, there are times in our lives where we need someone or something outside of ourselves to help us. And when those moments come, who do we turn to? If we just say, “god” - that may not be enough. Martha trusted in Jesus and in God, but Jesus has to correct her to know that the two are one in the same. Likewise, we know that the sin of idolatry is trusting in something other than the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. And so we must trust in God, but understand who God is. We must not make politics, modern medicine, financial planning, social media, or our friends our “gods” whom we trust. We must always trust in God – trust in Jesus Christ.

Jesus would of course go on to raise Lazarus from the dead at Bethany, and He Himself would rise from His own grave outside of Jerusalem. This reassures us that no matter where we may find ourselves – whether that be in Iowa, outside of Jerusalem, or even in the grip of death itself, Jesus is in control over all things. And His power as the Almighty God, is always used out of love for our benefit and assures us of true life – now and forever. Amen.

