



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

March 29th, 2026 A.D.

Palm Sunday

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.

Psalm

From Psalm 24 and 118

Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

We bless you from the house of the LORD.

Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors,

that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?

The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!

Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors,

that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?

The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!

Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

We bless you from the house of the LORD.

Scripture Lesson

(John 12:12-19)

¹² The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³ So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" ¹⁴ And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,


¹⁵ "Fear not, daughter of Zion;
behold, your king is coming,
sitting on a donkey's colt!"

¹⁶ His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. ¹⁷ The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the

dead continued to bear witness. ¹⁸ The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. ¹⁹ So the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him.”

Sermon

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

Entrusting into God's Care

Thanksgiving

- Dave Johnson– recovered after surgery

Entrusting into God's Care

- Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

Healing

- Lorna Fischer– recovering after hospitalization
- Vern Happel- health issues
- John- (relative 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
- Shirley Witte - recovering after surgery
- Tom Larson - recovering after surgery
- Linda Patten - recovering after surgery
- Abi Clark - health issues

Homebound

- Velma Ziesemer– Cottage Grove

Mourning, Friends and Family of

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

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

Most merciful God, as the people of Jerusalem, with palms in their hands, gathered to greet Your dearly beloved Son when He came into His Holy City, grant that we may ever hail Him as our King and, when He comes again, may go forth to meet Him with trusting and steadfast hearts and follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life; through the same 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.



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

People usually have expectations of the other people around them. Children expect their parents to provide a loving home for them, while parent may expect respect from their children and that they do their homework and chores. But even when we don't know people, we have expectations of them. For instance when we're out driving, we all expect each other to follow the basic rules of the road. And when expectations are not met, be it in the home or out on the road, things usually don't go very well. Very often we'll ask, "What is wrong with these people?" when our expectations are not met. But looking at our Scripture reading for today, we're reminded that sometimes we need to ask, "Is there something wrong with our expectations?"

When Jesus came riding into Jerusalem on a borrowed burro almost 2000 years ago, the people lining the streets had their own expectations. Outside the great city, waving palm branches and shouting "Hosanna", they greeted Jesus as a King. But despite the clear teachings of the Old Testament prophets, they did not know what kind of King Jesus was. They expected Jesus to bring the nation of Israel power and wealth. They expected Him to throw off the oppressive yoke of Roman occupation and make them rulers of the world. They expected Jesus to give them earthly riches and blessings. Because they did not fear God or have sorrow over their sin, that was the type of king they were looking for – one who could give them more possessions, more riches of

this world. Because they didn't concern themselves with God, they paid no attention to God's Word and missed how Jesus, who was their King, would rule. They missed that Jesus their King would exceed their expectations.

Well, if we learn anything from history it's that we never learn anything from history. And so just as the people outside of Jerusalem had the wrong expectations of Jesus as their king, so too do many of us today. Neglecting the Word of God, it is tempting to believe that Jesus is the type of King that only wants to give us earthly, temporary blessings. If we greet Him into our hearts, we tell ourselves He'll help us be happy and stay as independent as we want to be. Praise the name of our King, and He'll get our grandkids that job or the promotion. Waive some palm branches for Him and He'll help our portfolios and bank accounts grow fat with cash. That's the type of King that many people are looking for in Jesus. Those are the expectations that many people have of Him.

But if we turn our attention to God's Word, and not our own mistaken expectations, we see that Jesus is a different type of King. And when the Holy Spirit works upon our hearts and minds through the Word of God, we not only see the type of King that Jesus is, we see that He is one that wildly exceeds our expectations. Isaiah 53:3-4 states, "*He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.*" This is not a king who would come in glory and splendor to bring material riches and earthly success for his subjects. This is a King who would be despised and rejected; a King filled with sorrow. This might not be what we would expect from such a great King, but thankfully the reason why Jesus was despised and rejected was so that our expectations could be exceeded. For while those who neglect the Word of God often focus solely on the things of this world, our King sees everything perfectly. And when He sees you and me, He knows that we are all sinners, needing forgiveness. He knows that we might like health, wealth, and prosperity, but we need salvation from our sin. So, Jesus came to us as a humble king, riding on a donkey. And entering the great city of Jerusalem, He did not take His seat on any type of throne or adorn Himself with any golden crown. Instead, on His head was placed a crown of thorns.

Our King suffered and died on the cross, not to bless us with material wealth and success, but to forgive our sin and give us eternal life. Isaiah 53:5 says, "*But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.*" When Jesus was crucified, the King of Creation gave His life for His subjects. He might not make you successful, but His side was pierced for you. He might not make you wealthy or popular, but He was crushed with your sin so you wouldn't have to be. And our King may or may not keep you or your loved ones healthy or safe, but with His wounds you are healed from all of your sin and given eternal peace. If Jesus isn't meeting your expectations, there's nothing wrong with Jesus, it's just that your expectations are too low.

And this is what happens when times of trouble and distress come to people who neglect God's Word and forget what kind of King Jesus really is. If you think He rode into Jerusalem on a warhorse as a conquering hero, He won't meet your expectations when we struggle in life. If you believe that Jesus said, "Blessed are the proud, the partiers, and those who are never persecuted", He won't meet your expectations when we suffer and are persecuted. When terrible times come, if we forget what our King is like, we might be tempted to think there is something wrong with Him! But seeing Jesus on the cross with the eyes of our faith, that comes to us through the Word of God, we know that Jesus has exceeded all our expectations. For there, our King gave

His life for our forgiveness. And because of that, the blessed gifts of eternal life and salvation have been won and secured for sinners who should never have expected such wonderful gifts of love. But that, is the kind of King that we have. One who blesses us with His priceless gifts in good times and bad. One who will always exceed our expectations. Amen.