



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

The 6th of December 2020 A.D. – Second Sunday of Advent

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 *Psalm 80*

Restore us, O God;

let your face shine, that we may be saved!

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

You brought a vine out of Egypt;

it took deep root and filled the land.

Restore us, O God of hosts;

let your face shine, that we may be saved!

Scripture Lesson

(Mark 1:1-8)

¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

*“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way,*

³the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

*‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”*

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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.**

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

Thanksgiving

- Nolan (infant of Robby & Annie Russman)- Born 11/30
- Steve Hanchera - recovering after COVID-19

Entrusting into God's Care

- Those suffering after the storm and during the pandemic
- The homeless & the unemployed
- Dee Rose - hospice care at Meth-Wick nursing facility
- Workers in the Church, here at Bethany and throughout the world

Healing

- Pat Krekeler - recovering after hospitalization
- Linda Patten - recovering after hip replacement
- Kent Zenor - recovering after second eye surgery
- Darlene Eckert - recovering after broken leg
- Aaron Moffett - recovering after eye surgery
- Dave Christian - recovering after surgery
- Kris Dunn - health issues

Shut-Ins

- Nadine Wax– at home

Mourning

- Bernie Rehnstrom– Died 11/25
- Karen Pfeffer - mourning her uncle, Ray's, death on 11/7
- Bernice Stonewall - mourning her brother, Merle's, death on 10/31
- Bonnie Bubke - mourning her son, Scott's, death on 10/27

Serving Our Country

- Tailor & Charlie (grandsons of Kim Neuhaus) – serving in the U.S. Armed Forces

Collect of the Day

Let us pray... Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; 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.



If it were possible to take Jesus out of Advent, the most important person during this season would most likely be John the Baptist. For hundreds of years before the first Christmas, God promised to send a prophet to prepare the way for the Messiah. John the Baptist was that promised prophet. His preparation for the coming Messiah involved preaching a baptism of repentance. Therefore, repentance is the key not only to understanding John's message, but also our preparation to receive Christ into our lives today.

Naturally, when most of us hear the call to repent, we begin to think of God's Law. We begin to think of the Ten Commandments and all the things that God wants us to do or not to do. We know that God is just and that He promises to pour out His wrath on those who sin against Him. Knowing all of this makes the terrified sinner wish that she had not committed her sin. She disapproves of her previous sinful actions. This is repentance and what God calls us to through His Word and those who preach it like John the Baptist.

But while this fear and sorrow is repentance, it is only one side of the coin. This is called contrition, but with repentance there must also be faith. And without contrition and faith, it is impossible to understand repentance. Imagine if you asked me what my parents were like. And I told you that they would take away my toys as a child and send me to my room for long periods of time. If this is all you knew about my parents you would think that they were terrible and evil people, maybe even be afraid of them. This is exactly what people think of God, when there is only contrition present in repentance. But when John, as well as all the other prophets and apostles call us to repentance, he also wants us to have faith in Christ as our savior.

John preaches a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. This forgiveness only comes from trusting in Christ as your Savior. In Mark 1:15, Christ Himself says, "*Repent and believe the gospel!*" Thus, the first part of our repentance denounces sin, but the second part, faith, consoles our troubled consciences and shows us the forgiveness of sins. For when Christ says believe in the gospel, He is not talking about some general book of knowledge, but to believe that Christ has died on the cross to forgive your sins. This faith in Jesus not only saves us from sin and death, but comforts us as we await His coming again. Amen.

