



# Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

**May 5, 2024 A.D. – Sixth Sunday of Easter**

*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

*Psalm 98*

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!  
**His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.**

<sup>2</sup>The LORD has made known his salvation;

**he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

<sup>3</sup>He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

**All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

<sup>4</sup>Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;  
**break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

<sup>5</sup>Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,  
**with the lyre and the sound of melody!**

<sup>6</sup>With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
**make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!**

<sup>7</sup>Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
**the world and those who dwell in it!**

<sup>8</sup>Let the rivers clap their hands;  
**let the hills sing for joy together**

<sup>9</sup>before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth.

**He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.**

*For those with access to the internet, you may now play today's worship video at [www.bethanycr.org/sermons](http://www.bethanycr.org/sermons) and then continue with the Apostles' Creed.*

---

## Scripture Lesson – *John 15:9-17*

[Jesus said] “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s

commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

<sup>12</sup>“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. <sup>17</sup> These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

**Sermon** – † *LOVE* † (*A copy is included at the end of this service.*  
*This sermon was written for the Sixth Sunday of Easter in 2021.)*

---

### **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**

- Marvie Foreman - recovered after surgery
- Kris Dunn - recovered after surgery
- Erin Wilson - recovered after surgery

### **Entrusting into God's Care**

- Chuck Stoelting - hospice care
- Mickie Sjullie - employment search
- Persecuted Christians and refugees
- Peace in Europe and throughout the world
- Project 24 students, Yvonne and Lorine

### **Healing**

- Arlen Breiholz - upcoming surgery 5/10
- Deb (Phil Hedtke's sister) - upcoming cancer surgery 5/13
- Kristi Montague - recovering after biopsy
- Dick Hass - recovering after hospitalization
- Sharon Ramsey - recovering after surgery
- Tina Freese - recovering after surgery
- Bonnie Bubke - recovering after hospitalization
- Deb Heitland - health issues
- Aaron Moffett - recovering after eye surgery
- Ron Prescott - health issues
- Kim Neuhaus - recovering after surgery
- Ethel Doehrmann - immunotherapy treatment

### **Homebound**

- Candi Engel - Heritage Care Center

### **Mourning, friends and family of**

- Nick (relative of Goerdt & K. Frampton) - died 4/29
- Vic (friend of Ken Armbrecht) - died 4/19
- Jeffrey Jasper - died 4/13

### **Serving Our Country**

- Amber (daughter of Ann Balvanz) - US Army, stationed in RI
- Ben (son of Kroemers) - IA National Guard
- Devin (friend of Kroemers) - IA Army National Guard
- Mitchell & Benjamin (relatives of Schoens & Smiths) - US Navy
- Harrison (son of Siecks) - US Army, stationed in TX
- Jordan (grandson of Kim Neuhaus) - IA National Guard
- Devon (friend of Hedtkes and Chitticks) - deployed to Korea

### **Collect of the Day**

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; 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.**



✠ **LOVE** ✠

*(This sermon was written for the Sixth Sunday of Easter in 2021.)*

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

What do you think of when you hear the word *love*? Do you think of a couple walking hand in hand along the beach? Do you think of Valentine’s Day and a warm fuzzy feeling in the pit of your stomach? Today God tells us in His Word that such a concept of love is just a very, very small part of love. Today we want to explore the motivation of Christian love, a love modeled after the love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus would not define love with words, but with actions: He says in John 3:16, “*For God so loved the world, that he gave His only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life*”. In John 13 we read, “*Having loved His own who were in the world, Jesus loved them to the end...Then He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet*”. And John tells us in his first letter, “*In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins*”. There you have it – from the Bible that is love. For Jesus, love meant nothing apart from deeds. Jesus didn’t just speak of love, He actually loved. Love for Jesus was sacrifice. He sacrificed His time, His energy, His personal comfort, and even the sacrifice of His very life.

Jesus gave all of this love to us very unlovable, sinful human beings. Jesus didn’t choose us to love because we loved Him first. We can see this by looking at the disciples. When Nathaniel found out that Jesus was from Nazareth he asked, “*Can anything good come out of Nazareth?*” Yet Jesus called him to be His disciple nevertheless. Likewise, the early in the night of our Gospel lesson Peter and all the disciples were sure they would make any sacrifice for Jesus, they believed that they would even be willing to die with Him. Of course later on, Peter denied knowing Christ for fear of his own life and the others would abandon Him as well. The disciples were good with

love that was just words, but when it came time for them to sacrifice, to put their own lives on the line, they often failed miserably. So we see that Jesus didn't choose to love the disciples because they chose to love Him. In our text He's quite clear saying, "You did not choose me, but I chose you".

And Jesus chose all of us as well – we who were no more lovable and reliable than Peter or any of the disciples. We who fail to speak up when Jesus is being mocked by our friends and acquaintances. We who fail to speak God's Word clearly because it may mean we risk being labeled bigots or hate mongers at worst or at least politically incorrect. We weren't lovable, but Jesus says, "I love you – your sins are forgiven." Jesus says to the crowds, "I love you – here are some fish and some bread." To the paralytic, "I love you – get up and walk." To all of us, "I love you – I lay down my life for you."

And this is the motivation for all Christian love. We love because God wants us to love and this is not an option for those who have been forgiven their sins by the blood of Christ. Twice in our Scripture lesson, Jesus does not suggest that we love – He commands us to love! Second however, people know the disciples of Christ by how they love. And we want to be recognized as Jesus' disciples, so His name might be glorified and people come to faith and salvation in that name. But we do this not by praying out in public where everyone can see us. We do not honk our horns as we drive to church on Sunday morning so everyone may know we are going to church. Rather people know we are disciples of Christ when we love like our Lord loved us.

But this is not easy, for to love as Jesus loved means that we serve as He served. It means that we love by sacrifice. We love not only by our words, but also by our deeds. We love by laying down our lives for others – not necessarily literally, but as we give of our time, our comforts, and our treasures, we are laying down our lives in love for others. When members of our congregation serve those in or at Family Promise, they are loving by their deeds. When they serve as Stephen Ministers, Sunday School teachers, or when they take worship resources to people's homes – these people are loving others with not just words, but with their deeds. And of course we understand that one does not have to volunteer or work in the various ministries of the church to love. Each one of us can practice Christian love wherever God has placed us, simply by trusting in Jesus and following God's commandments.

This weekend as we celebrate Mothers' day, we celebrate this type of love shown by all good and faithful mothers. We don't give thanks to God for women who just talk about the love of a mother, we give thanks to God for the mothers who love with their actions. Who sacrifice their sleep, sometimes their health, very often their own desires for the sake of their children without counting the cost. To all the mothers who have shown this type of love for their children we should thank them and give thanks to God. And for those who have fallen short of this type of love, as all of us have at some point, we should fix their eyes on the cross of Christ were they will not only find the forgiveness of their sins, but also the strength to do better.

But God encourages not just mothers to love, or to find forgiveness for that matter, but God commands all of us to love. It may start with our spouses and our children. But it also includes our friends as well as our enemies. We can love people we don't even know. We are to love the unloving. We love those who don't love us. And we do this because Jesus loved us first.

This sacrificial love of Jesus is hard for us to do. Our sinful nature constantly fights against it, so that it takes effort and practice and concentration. It takes open eyes to see the needs of others. But most importantly it takes the love of Jesus. And so we remember to love one another, because we know that He loves every one of us. Amen.