



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

May 26, 2024 A.D.

Trinity 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 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 16 and a Liturgical Text)

Blessèd be the Holy Trinity and the undivided Unity.

Let us give glory to him because he has shown his mercy to us.

I have set the LORD always before me;

because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;

my flesh also dwells secure.

For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,

or let your holy one see corruption.

You make known to me the path of life;

in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

For those with access to the internet, you may now play today's worship video at bethanycr.org/sermons and then continue with the Apostles' Creed.

Everyone else may continue the service as printed....

Scripture Lesson – *John 3:1-17*

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” ³Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’”

⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

Sermon

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

The Athanasian Creed

Whoever desires to be saved must, above all, hold the catholic faith. Whoever does not keep it whole and undefiled will without doubt perish eternally. And the catholic faith is this, **that we worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the substance. For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Holy Spirit is another. But the Godhead of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is one: the glory equal, the majesty coeternal.**

Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit: the Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, the Holy Spirit uncreated; the Father infinite, the Son infinite, the Holy Spirit infinite; the Father eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal.

And yet there are not three Eternals, but one Eternal, just as there are not three Uncreated or three Infinites, but one Uncreated and one Infinite.

In the same way, the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, the Holy Spirit almighty; and yet there are not three Almighty's, but one Almighty.

So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God; and yet there are not three Gods, but one God.

So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord; and yet there are not three Lords, but one Lord.

Just as we are compelled by the Christian truth to acknowledge each distinct person as God and Lord, so also are we prohibited by the catholic religion to say that there are three Gods or Lords.

The Father is not made nor created nor begotten by anyone. The Son is neither made nor created, but begotten of the Father alone.

The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son, neither made nor created nor begotten, but proceeding.

Thus, there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits.

And in this Trinity none is before or after another; none is greater or less than another; but the whole three persons are coeternal with each other and coequal, so that in all things, as has been stated above, the Trinity in Unity and Unity in Trinity is to be worshiped.

Therefore, whoever desires to be saved must think thus about the Trinity.

But it is also necessary for everlasting salvation that one faithfully believe the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, it is the right faith that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is at the same time both God and man.

He is God, begotten from the substance of the Father before all ages; and He is man, born from the substance of His mother in this age: perfect God and perfect man, composed of a rational soul and human flesh; equal to the Father with respect to His divinity, less than the Father with respect to His humanity.

Although He is God and man, He is not two, but one Christ: one, however, not by the conversion of the divinity into flesh, but by the assumption of the humanity into God; one altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person.

For as the rational soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ, who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead, ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

At His coming all people will rise again with their bodies and give an account concerning their own deeds. And those who have done good will enter into eternal life, and those who have done evil into eternal fire. This is the catholic faith; whoever does not believe it faithfully and firmly cannot be saved.

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

- Bonnie Bubke - recovering after hospitalization
- Sharon (sister of Sue Kroemer) - recovered after surgery

Entrusting into God's Care

- Chuck Stoelting - hospice care
- Mickie Sjullie - employment search
- Nathan & Sarah Federwitz - Lutheran Bible Translators
- Peace in Europe and throughout the world

- Project 24 students, Yvonne and Lorine
- Trinity Lutheran School Principal search

Healing

- Angela Yuza - upcoming surgery 6/3
- Joseph (relative of Angela Yuza) - upcoming surgery 6/14
- JB (friend of Cindy Broadwater) - recovering after surgery
- Don (friend of Mary Vezina) - recovering from surgery
- Arlen Breiholz - recovering after surgery
- Deb (Phil Hedtke's sister) - recovering after surgery
- Kristi Montague - health issues
- Sharon Ramsey - recovering after surgery
- Deb Heitland - health issues
- Aaron Moffett - recovering after eye surgery
- Ron Prescott - health issues
- Kim Neuhaus - recovering after surgery
- Ethel Doehrmann - immunotherapy treatment

Homebound

- Verlyn & Paul LeFevere - at home

Mourning, friends and family of

- Jena (friend of Ann Balvanz) - died 5/16

Serving Our Country

- Mallory (friend of Abi Clark) - IA National Guard
- 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

Let us pray...Almighty and everlasting God, You have given us grace to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity by the confession of a true faith and to worship the Unity in the power of the Divine Majesty. Keep us steadfast in this faith and defend us from all adversities; for You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and reign, 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.



✠ *Trusting the Trinity* ✠

Grace, Mercy, and Peace to all of you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Imagine if you will for a moment a man who is brought to the hospital in an ambulance. His life is in grave danger and every second counts as paramedics, nurses, and doctors swarm around him to give life saving medicine and treatment. And yet just as this man is about to be saved, he sits up and asks, “What are you doing?” The care-givers are shocked and tell him that they are saving his life. He says, “I know that, but how? I want to know all the details.” He says, “How do all of the chemical reactions of these medications work? And what about all of these fancy machines? What are they called? Who makes them? Have they been tested lately for accuracy? Or are there better ones out there?” Not satisfied with the answers, he asks to leave.

Or imagine a woman on an airplane. Sometime during the flight as she’s looking out the window she begins to wonder how this airplane works. She pushed the button for the flight attendant to come, and asks him how the plane works. Somewhat surprised he briefly explains the principles of lift, drag, thrust, and of course gravity and assures her that the plane is working just fine. But being somewhat unsatisfied with the answer and not quite understanding all of the principles of flight, she get out of her seat, and jumps out of the plane.

Now these stories are of course fictional. Millions of people get on an airplane everyday with absolutely no idea of how the plane works. Without understanding of biochemistry, infectious diseases, or nuclear medicine people go to hospitals all of the time and continue to make appointments to see their doctor. Yet as silly as these two stories are which have probably never happened, something even stranger happens everyday. Unable to understand God, people reject and push Him away.

This weekend we celebrate Trinity Sunday – a special reminder that as Christians we worship the One true God in three distinct persons – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. To help us wrap our minds around this, the church has taken the teachings of the Scriptures and written creeds such as the Athanasian. The Athanasian creed which we read together on Trinity Sunday was written between 450 and 600 AD to combat the heresy that Jesus was not truly God and to refute those who denied the Trinity - the same type of teachings that we often see today in books and movies. Thus in the Athanasian Creed we have the very thorough descriptions of God's attributes and the strong language condemning those who believe otherwise. And yet even with the help of the Creeds, and even God's Word itself, is there anyone here who can really understand, not describe, but really understand the Trinity? Endless pages have been written about the Triune nature of God. Examples likening God to an apple or water abound. Yet in the end the examples and explanations fall short.

Perhaps unfortunately, the Triune Nature of God is not the only thing about God we don't understand. Nicodemus found this out, as we read of an encounter he had with Jesus in our Gospel Lesson. Nicodemus went to Jesus at night, perhaps because he was afraid of his fellow Pharisees, or perhaps he simply wanted to have a long talk with Christ. Whatever the case, Nicodemus had heard of Jesus and had known about the incredible miracles Jesus was performing. And yet he didn't quite know what to make of Jesus. He could not quite understand what this Jesus of Nazareth was up to.

When Jesus speaks to Nicodemus, it may seem as if Jesus wasn't being very responsive to him. But when Jesus says, "I tell you the truth" He's cutting right to the point. And He tells this Nicodemus what he needs to hear. Jesus says, "*I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again*" Now, Nicodemus is no idiot. He's a Pharisee. And on top of that he was a member of the Sanhedrin – a member of the Jewish ruling counsel. His knowledge of the Scriptures would put any of us to shame. So don't laugh at him when Jesus says a man must be born again to be saved, and he asks how can someone be born when they're old!

Jesus answered, "*I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.*" You don't have to go back inside of your mother to be born again and have the kingdom of God. You need the Holy Spirit, who comes to you through God's Word. The Holy Spirit who gives you faith in baptism. Through the Spirit using the Word and Sacraments we are saved, not by anything we have done, but out of God's mercy. By what Jesus the Son of God, did on the cross – namely die for our sins, and then rise again to life, so that we, sinners who really don't understand all that much, may be born again and have a new, and a better life through Christ. One that sin and death cannot take away or destroy.

If we don't quite understand all this, if you don't quite know why the Spirit has done His work on you today but not your son or daughter, your husband or wife, don't worry. Jesus says, "*The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear the sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.*" Look at the wind, Nicodemus. It's always blowing around you. You feel it on your skin, you hear it blowing in your ears, and yet this thing that is right in front of you don't understand at all! So, should you really expect to perfectly know the mind of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit?

Do you know everything there is to know about medicine today? Do you know how a plane flies, how a car runs? Can you explain how your eye sees or how your tongue speaks? How a seed becomes a tree? How food and drink become part of own flesh and blood? How we fall asleep or wake up? There is so much that we are completely ignorant of, and yet we don't worry

about them, but accept them and make them part of our everyday lives. We get in the car and drive to church. We plant gardens in the spring and enjoy the flowers and vegetables all year long. We read, we listen, we talk all without so much as a thought. But when it comes to God, we're busybodies. Who will be saved? Where does the Spirit work? When will Jesus come back? Why did this happen? How is God three persons in one God? And far too often when our questions are not answered or not answered the way we want, we make God out to be a liar or worse, a myth.

But God can do so much more than what we can understand. Our Lord Jesus gives only one illustration of the wind, yet all of creation gives Him support. We don't even know how we were made, yet do we think God can only do what we can understand? I pray He can, for who can understand why God would give His own Son to die for us sinners. But just because we can't understand why something happens, doesn't mean that it hasn't.

On Trinity Sunday we are reminded of the awesome and incomprehensible majesty of the eternal God. It is important that we keep this confession and teaching of God clear, for this is how God is. But even more importantly than describing the nature of God, the Biblical Doctrine of the Trinity tells us of the work of God - His work being to forgive us (**His Created and Chosen People**) through our faith, (**given by the Holy Spirit**) in Christ Jesus (**God's Son our Lord**). Amen.

