



# Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

**June 2, 2024 A.D.**

**The Second Sunday after Pentecost**

*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 62*

For God alone my soul waits in silence;  
**from him comes my salvation.**

For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence,  
**for my hope is from him.**

He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress;  
**I shall not be shaken.**

On God rests my salvation and my glory;  
**my mighty rock, my refuge is God.**

Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him;  
**God is a refuge for us.**

*For those with access to the internet, you may now play today's worship video, located online at [www.bethanycr.org/sermons](http://www.bethanycr.org/sermons) and then continue with the Nicene Creed. Everyone else may continue the service as printed....*

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## **Scripture Lesson**

*(Mark 2:23-3:6)*

<sup>23</sup>One Sabbath [Jesus] was going through the grainfields, and as they made their way, his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. <sup>24</sup>And the Pharisees were saying to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?" <sup>25</sup>And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did, when he was in need and was hungry, he and those who were with him: <sup>26</sup>how he entered the house of God, in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?" <sup>27</sup>And he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. <sup>28</sup>So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath."

<sup>1</sup>Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there with a withered hand. <sup>2</sup>And they watched Jesus, to see whether he would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. <sup>3</sup>And he said to the man with the withered hand, "Come here." <sup>4</sup>And he said to them, "Is it lawful

on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?” But they were silent. <sup>5</sup>And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. <sup>6</sup>The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

**Sermon**

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

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**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**

- 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**

- Tim W (friend of Pete Larson) - health issues
- 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**

- Cindy Broadwater - 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... Eternal God, Your Son Jesus Christ is our true Sabbath rest. Help us to keep each day holy by receiving His Word of comfort that we may find our rest in Him, 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.**



Today in our Scripture lesson we find Christ and His disciples walking through a field of grain, picking some of the fruits of the earth to eat as they walked along. Now this in and of itself is nothing to really get all that excited about, certainly not worth having St. Mark record this event so that we could read all about it 2000 years later. But what makes Jesus' and His disciples' walk interesting that day was that this was the Sabbath Day - the seventh day of the week. For many of us today, the seventh day of the week is Saturday, a time to do all of those things that we are too busy to do during the week, a day to cut the grass if it's not raining, do a little shopping, and maybe take the kids to their soccer game. But to a first century Jew, the seventh day of the week, the Sabbath day was not a day to catch up on all the work that had to be done. It was a day where one was to do nothing but rest.

This idea goes all the way back to creation. God worked making the heavens, the land, the water and every form of life that they contain for six days, but on the seventh, He rested. When the Israelites wandered through the wilderness for forty years, having been freed from slavery in Egypt, they were to go out and gather their manna each morning to eat, but on the sixth day, they were to gather twice as much, and therefore they wouldn't have to gather any on the Sabbath Day (Exodus 16:5). And finally, just so that no one would be confused - God came right out and told the Israelites "Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it Holy." - what we now call the Third of the Ten Commandments. In Deuteronomy we read that no one shall not do any work on the Sabbath. Then the Jewish leaders took it a step farther in their zeal for the law, after all they wrongly believed that their salvation depended upon it keeping the commandments. So the Jews had heaped their own rules and regulations on top of God's Commandments, just to be safe. And by the time Jesus is walking through the fields, you could only walk so far, you could only carry so much, and you certainly could not harvest your crop on the Sabbath.

It was at this point that the Pharisees, those so-called experts in the God's Law who were always looking to trap Jesus, claimed Jesus was doing something unlawful – they claimed that Jesus was working on the Sabbath. It's hard to say if the Pharisees were grasping at straws trying

to catch Jesus doing something wrong, or it these particular Pharisees were not the sharpest knives in the drawer. But in any case, Jesus reminds them that at one time King David ate when it would have seemed God's law had forbidden it, but that his need and the need of his men came first in that instance. Jesus is saying the same thing applies to His situation, that the Sabbath day is for people's benefit, not to be a burden for them.

The Pharisees had taken something intended to help people, and made it more work for them. The problem was that the Pharisees believed that the Sabbath, and really all of the Commandments, were something by itself, an end so to speak, so that one would live their life just to keep the Sabbath. They would live their lives not to kill, not to steal. In contrast Jesus tells them that the Sabbath was made for man. The Sabbath day is to help humanity achieve what God has set before us. And that is not a day of rest, but nothing less than an eternal rest with Christ Jesus.

So what is the Sabbath for us and how do we, as Christians, keep it? The Sabbath is not a day where God commands us to do nothing. If that were the case the drunken fool who sleeps all Sunday passed out in his bed would be keeping the Sabbath. Or is the doctor or nurse breaking the Sabbath as she goes to the hospital to help heal God's children? Of course not, and this is not what God intended.

But rather God wants us to keep the Sabbath for our own health and benefit. It just makes sense that we as mortal humans cannot work 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We need a break, we need a Sabbath day. And this is to help us. Now God knows that your busy for He's given you many of the tasks that keep you so busy. But as busy as all of us are, God also wants you to worship Him and hear His word. For this reason, God has set aside your day of rest to also be a day of worship.

But in keeping the Sabbath, we must understand worship to not necessarily be something we do, but something God does wherever and whenever we worship. Yes, we may sing and pray, but these are only in response to what God has done for us – brings us into saving faith, forgives us our sin, feeds and washes us in the sacraments.

Now if the Word of God is what is important in keeping the Sabbath, we must resist the idea that just coming to Church is keeping the Sabbath, or we'll end up just like the Pharisees who have turned it into an end by itself. We could come to church to catch up on all the latest gossip, we could sit in the back or even the front and think about all the things that need to be done and never hear God's word read from the lectern, sung in the hymns and anthems, proclaimed in the liturgy, and preached in the Sermon. It is possible to be here and not hear. To be in Church and not keep the Sabbath by gladly listening and learning God's Word. Conversely, we can keep the Sabbath when we are not here in the church, but still hear the Word of God.

Going to worship then should not be like Monday morning. "Oh do I have to get up and go to work/school?" It should be like Christmas morning. "Hey lets' go because we are going to receive these wonderful treasures of God's Word and Sacraments" It is this Word of God, that feeds and nourishes our faith when we properly keep the Sabbath, that brings us closer to God and gives us Eternal life. Yes, we are to rest on this day, but use this rest to receive the infinite and eternal blessings that God wants to give you. The Sabbath is not the end, it is one of the means to the end, which is eternal life with Christ Jesus. May you hear this Good News of God's Word today and everyday until life everlasting. Amen.

