



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

July 21, 2024 A.D.

The 9th 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 Psalms 145 and 147

You open your hand;
you satisfy the desire of every living thing.
Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;
make melody to our God on the lyre!
He covers the heavens with clouds; he prepares rain for the earth;
he makes grass grow on the hills.
He gives to the beasts their food,
and to the young ravens that cry.
His delight is not in the strength of the horse,
nor his pleasure in the legs of a man,
but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,
in those who hope in his steadfast love.

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

Scripture Lesson

Mark 6:30-44

³⁰The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹And he said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. ³²And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. ³³Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. ³⁴When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things. ³⁵And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and

said, “This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. ³⁶Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.” ³⁷But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” And they said to him, “Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?” ³⁸And he said to them, “How many loaves do you have? Go and see.” And when they had found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.” ³⁹Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties. ⁴¹And taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. ⁴²And they all ate and were satisfied. ⁴³And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. ⁴⁴And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.

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

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

- Youth & Sponsors on the CO Mission Trip
- Mickie Sjullie - employment search
- Nathan & Sarah Federwitz - Lutheran Bible Translators
- Peace in Europe and throughout the world
- Project 24 students, Yvonne and Lorine

Healing

- Duane Pfeffer - health issues
- Mary Nanke - recovering after hospitalization
- Sharon Easler - recovering after surgery
- Angela Yuza - 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

- Candy Engel - Heritage Care Center

Mourning, friends and family of

- Don (friend of Don Hein) - died 7/16

Serving Our Country

- Devon (friend of Hedtkes & Chitticks) - deployed to Korea
- Mallory (friend of Abi Clark) - IA National Guard
- Amber (dght of Ann Balvanz) - US Army, stationed in Germany
- 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

Collect of the Day

Heavenly Father, though we do not deserve Your goodness, still You provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge Your gifts, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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.



Grace, Mercy, and Peace to you from God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

In our Gospel reading today, we find that God had compassion for those around Him. We should not really be surprised that Jesus had compassion - people today expect that from God, despite the fact that for many of us compassion is a rare thing in our lives. Out on the sports fields or courts we try to teach kids to play fair and sportsmanship, but compassion usually doesn't come up much. The tone of the rhetoric in the political arena has certainly changed over the last few days, but even now we don't hear people talking about compassion. In the courts we want justice. In our neighborhoods friendship and kindness. In our homes we want peace. In our families love. But where in our lives do we find compassion?

First we must know that it is more than feeling sorry for someone. It's more than just caring for someone. It is even more than trying to understand the difficulties of people. Compassion seems to be having someone else's pain in your heart.

What this looks like can be illustrated by a story you've probably heard before. A farmer got stuck in the mud while he was plowing his field. His neighbor came over to help and said, "I'll give pulling you out a try, but if we don't get the tractor out, I'll come and sit in the mud with

you!” Compassion is sitting in the mud with someone – having his pain or her misfortune in your own heart.

And compassion is what Jesus had for the crowds and the disciples that day we read of in our text. The disciples had just returned from their first big missionary expedition. It had been an exciting and exhausting time for them as demons were cast out of people and sinners were called to salvation. Jesus’ message was so successful and powerful that now He and the disciples were overwhelmed by those in need. They had no time to call their own – no time to visit, no time for reflection, they did not even have time to eat. The disciples worked so hard and fast they were even neglecting their own needs. But Jesus understood this and He showed compassion for His disciples. He says, “Hey guys, lets hop in the boat and go for some R+R”. So, the disciples and the Savior set out for a well deserved break.

But as they shoved out into the sea, the people started running to where they thought that Jesus was going to eventually dock. Now that same day, we later find out that Jesus miraculously fed 5,000 men. Add to that some women and children and it’s likely there were around 10,000 people there waiting for Jesus to get to shore. When the boat pulls up, Jesus sees all of them and he has compassion.

Now let’s not forget about how things have been going with Jesus up this point. He had been working just as if not harder then the disciples have. Just earlier John the Baptist was killed. We read that Jesus wept at the death of his friend Lazarus, so it’s not hard to imagine that Jesus was troubled by the unfair death of his cousin, one of the first people to recognize Jesus for who he was, and the man Jesus said was the greatest man who ever lived. But we don’t read about Jesus worrying about his own needs, or asking people if he can take a break. Instead, he has compassion for the disciples, and when he sees this huge crowd, he has compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd.

God’s people were in pain. Think of the pain that Jesus saw when he looked into the those people’s hearts. The Lord had compassion on those parents who had to bury their children. The Lord had compassion on the widows and the widowers. The Lord had compassion for those who were worried about losing their jobs. For those who worried about their children, for those who were being harassed and teased by their peers, for those who had wasted precious times of their lives in ungodly behavior. Yes, Jesus had compassion on them all.

Jesus also has compassion on us, despite the fact that our sinful nature does not run to Jesus like the people in our text did. Rather the sinful person inside of us runs away from God, to all sorts of false gods. Nevertheless, Jesus carries our pain in his heart. We see His compassion all throughout scripture. In the Garden of Eden, God searches out the fallen Adam and Eve. God lifted the yoke of slavery off of the Israelites when they were in Egypt. He proclaimed His Word through the prophets when the kings of Israel and Judah would lead people astray, so that His people might turn from their evil and know of his love. But all of this compassion didn’t just happen one or two times or long ago. God showed compassion for you when He took your place under the Law when He was born a man. Jesus showed you compassion when He called you by name and made you a member of the church through your Baptism. Jesus showed you compassion when He listened to every one of your prayers. The people we read about in Scripture and we ourselves don’t deserve this compassion. We certainly cannot earn this compassion in anyway, but it is simply given to us because God loves us.

When the Prince of Peace, filled with compassion, got out of the boat what did He do? That’s right, He taught them many things. Jesus’ teaching are nicely summarized in our Epistle today. St. Paul writes to the Ephesians, “*But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away*

have been brought near through the blood of Christ.” Our sin causes us to be far away from God and to wander right into Hell. But God had compassion, and spilled the blood of His only Son Jesus Christ upon the cross. And through His blood we are made clean, our sin is taken away, and we have been brought back to be near to God. That is compassion.

Christ’s death on the cross happened along time ago, and we might think that His redemptive work is done. After all Christ did say on the cross, “It is finished.” But His work does continue. For He continues to hear our prayers; He continues to give us forgiveness every time we sin; and He continues to show compassion for all of those near to, and far from, Him. Having received compassion ourselves, let us share this compassion with those around us. For we must never sit on this compassion that we have been given, for until the Lord returns, His work in this world of bringing sinners back to Him, is never done. Amen.

