



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

October 20, 2024 A.D. The 22nd 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 34*

The LORD is near to the brokenhearted
and saves the crushed in spirit.

I will bless the LORD at all times;

his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

My soul makes its boast in the LORD;

let the humble hear and be glad.

Oh, magnify the LORD with me,

and let us exalt his name together!

I sought the LORD, and he answered me

and delivered me from all my fears.

When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears

and delivers them out of all their troubles.

For those with access to the internet, you may now play today's worship video, located on Bethany's website (www.bethanycr.org) under the Worship Resources tab and then continue with the Nicene Creed. Everyone else may continue the service as printed....

Scripture Lesson

(*Mark 10:23-31*)

²³Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" ²⁴And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, "Then who can be saved?" ²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God." ²⁸Peter began to say to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you." ²⁹Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children

or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, ³⁰who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

Sermon

(A copy is included at the end of this devotion)

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

- Caregivers of those who are ill
- Mickie Sjullie - employment search
- Nathan & Sarah Federwitz - Lutheran Bible Translators
- Peace in Europe and throughout the world
- Project 24 students, Yvonne and Lorine

Healing

- Brenda Heim - upcoming surgery on 10/23
- Prudy Petersen— recovering after fall
- Luci Stoelting— recovering after fall
- Norma Filmore - recovering after surgery
- Phillip Hackbardt - recovering after surgery
- Elda Joyner - recovering after surgery
- Stephanie & Mateo (friends of Zimmermans) - healing
- Doni (relative of Sheryl Knutson) - ongoing cancer treatment
- Duane Pfeffer - recovering after surgery
- John Hamm - recovering at assisted living in Waukee
- Beth Wright - recovering after fall
- Angela Yuza - recovering after surgery
- Wilson (son of Luke Viertel) - recovering after surgery
- Deb Heitland - health issues
- Elaine Cook - recovering at Cottage Grove after fall
- Brenda Heims - health issues
- Ethel Doehrmann - immunotherapy treatment

Homebound

- Carol Grimminger - Cottage Grove

Mourning, friends and family of

- Nancy (relative of Chuck Kroemer) - died 10/4
- Ty Robinson - died 9/22
- Trevor (relative of Hackbardts) - died 9/17
- Tom (friend of Dave Johnson) - died 9/13

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

Collect of the Day

Let us pray... O God, Your divine wisdom sets in order all things in heaven and on earth. Put away from us all things hurtful and give us those things that are beneficial for us; 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 – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

If any of us were to obtain a large sum of money, whether it be through the lottery, an inheritance, or maybe even earning it – we would tend to think that this would be an enormous blessing from God. But in our Scripture reading, Jesus gives us some insight concerning wealth that does not come from most people. Rather it comes from God, and as such it turns what many of us might think concerning not only wealth and riches, but also our standing before God and our salvation, upside down.

Looking at Mark 10:23-31, we remember that Jesus had just spoken to a rich young man. He had come to Jesus expecting some good advice from a wise teacher. However, Jesus tells him to sell everything he has and give it to the poor – demanding something beyond his ability to highlight his sinful condition and need, not for more wealth or possessions, but for a Savior.

In our text, Jesus now turns to His disciples. He says, “*How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the Kingdom of God!*” Mark tells us that the disciples were amazed by this – they were overwhelmed. Why? Because they thought that riches were a blessing from God! Just like many people today, the disciples and the Jewish people of the time believed in a type of prosperity Gospel – that riches and possessions and wealth was a sign of God’s favor. To the Jewish mind in Jesus’ time, it was inconceivable that riches could actually be a barrier to the kingdom of God! Today, we need to be careful lest we believe that any type of economic prosperity to be a certain sign of God’s favor or election.

Instead, we need to hear Jesus' words and hear them carefully. Wealth, and certainly not wealth that is earned in a God pleasing way, is not sinful, but it can be a serious handicap or danger. And this is not just the wealth of the super rich. Most of us know that according to historical standards around the world, even poor in America today could be considered as having wealth. And after the disciples were amazed by Jesus' first saying, He broadens it out to include everyone by saying, "*Children, how difficult it is to enter the Kingdom of God!*" But Jesus does go on to say that it is easier for a camel, (the largest animal in Palestine) to go through the eye of the needle (that is, the smallest of openings) than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.

So, what are the disadvantages or dangers of wealth and prosperity? Well, for one thing, they can destroy our morals and values. It has been said that the wealthy are tempted to know the price of everything and the value of nothing. This means that we can become so attached to the stuff of this world that we lose focus on the things that count the most – primarily our relationship with God and our neighbors.

Loosing this focus on God and those around us, along with a belief that wealth is a sign of God's favor, also puts our souls in danger - as we risk losing the one thing required for entering the kingdom of God – a helpless, dependent faith in Christ as our Savior! How often do we see even children, who have just a little bit of money in their pocket, think they don't need anyone anymore. Clinging to a handful of coins they'll say, "I'll go buy this pack of bubble gum all by myself."

Now knowing this sinful danger, the disciples are *exceedingly astonished*, asking "*Then who can be saved?*" To which Jesus responds, "*With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.*"

"All things are possible with God". Far too often we apply these words of our Lord in frivolous or relatively unimportant matters. But Jesus tells His disciples this so that they may know that they are saved. And this is not from their own works or prosperity, despite what the world may say. But this deliverance from sin and every evil comes through their faith in Him as their Lord and Savior.

This salvation was won for all who call on Jesus' name through the most impossible of situations – Jesus' death and resurrection. He gave up all the riches of heaven to place Himself under the law and keep it perfectly. Yet He still paid the price for sin – dying, not for His however, but for ours. And having been raised from the dead, Jesus shows us that we, as sinners, have been forgiven and have life in His name. The Son of God rising from the grave to give sinners life proves that nothing, even our salvation, is impossible with God!

This text from the Gospel of Mark is not really about wealth. Rather, here Jesus is really talking about hope. The hope that we have for salvation. And that hope does not rest in our possessions or how wealthy we are. Rather, the hope for all people, rich and poor alike, is Jesus Christ. So let us drop any possession or love for anything that would hinder our faith and trust in Him. For with Him, all things are possible. Amen.

