



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

January 12, 2025 A.D. The Baptism of Our Lord

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 Isaiah 42 & Psalm 2

Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights.

I will tell of the decree:

The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.

Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession.

You shall break them with a rod of iron
and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
be warned, O rulers of the earth.

Serve the LORD with fear,
and rejoice with trembling,
for his wrath is quickly kindled.

Blessèd are all who take refuge in him.

Scripture Lesson

(Isaiah 43:1-7)

¹But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:
“Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

³For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you, I give men in return for you,

peoples in exchange for your life.

⁵Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you.

⁶I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold;
bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth,

⁷everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

Sermon

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

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.**

Bethany's Prayer List

Thanksgiving

- Kris Larson - recovered after hospitalization
- Jack Zimmerman - recovered after surgery
- Duane Pfeffer - recovered after surgery

Entrusting into God's Care

- Nathan & Sarah Federwitz - Lutheran Bible Translators
- Peace in Europe and throughout the world
- Project 24 students, Yvonne and Lorine

Healing

- Mitch Myers - upcoming surgery on 1/13
- Harold Schoen - recovering after surgery
- Ron Prescott - recovering after surgery
- Paul LeFevere - recovering after hospitalization
- Tom Larson - health issues
- Everly Zimmerman - knee injury
- Phillip Hackbardt - recovering after surgery
- Dave Christian - cancer treatment
- John Hamm - recovering at assisted living in Waukee
- Deb Heitland - health issues
- Ethel Doehrmann - immunotherapy treatment

Homebound

- Cindy Broadwater - Harmony Care Center

Mourning, friends and family of

- Kenton Zenor - died 1/4
- Fred Henkelmann - died 12/25

Serving Our Country

- Aiden (grandson of Foremans) - US Army
- 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, Germany
- Jordan (grandson of Kim Neuhaus) - IA National Guard

Collect of the Day

Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Concluding Prayers

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, because of Your tender love toward us sinners You have given us Your Son that, believing in Him, we might have everlasting life. Continue to grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may remain steadfast in this faith to the end and finally come to life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

Have you ever thought about how powerful fear and worry are in our lives? In his book *fearless*, Max Lucado says that when fear moves in, happiness moves out. When our hearts are filled with fear, he reasons, there can't be room for anything else. You can't be confident and afraid at the same time. Nobody says he has a new spring in his step now that he worries more.

Fear grabs hold of us. Worry holds on to us. Like robes binding a prisoner, we often find ourselves held by "fear knots". Those knots in our stomach when we think about tomorrow's surgery or the court date coming up. Fear knots are the things that bind our hearts when we're concerned about our kids or grandkids. Fear knots tie us up and refuse to let us go. Fear exhausts our energy and makes us weak.

But the Lord comes to release us from our fear. To those who are fearful and worried he comes to us and says, "Fear not." He says this so that we can be hopeful and have confidence in Him and His promises. He says this, because of what He has done!

Ancient Israel in the time of Isaiah was bound up by fear knots. They were worried about how God felt about them. After all, they had disobeyed God time and time again. Beginning in the wilderness with Moses, the people of Israel complained against God, doubted His goodness, and turned to all sorts of false idols. This continued in the days of the judges and kings.

God warned His people against their idolatry, but they refused to listen. Instead of repenting, they told God's prophets to be quiet. That they didn't want to hear what God had to say. They even imprisoned and killed some of prophets who brought them God's Word.

Finally, the Lord had enough. At the end of Isaiah 42, immediately before our Old Testament Lesson, the Lord reminds Israel of what He has done: "*Who gave up Jacob to the looter, and Israel to the plunderers? Was it not the Lord, against whom we have sinned?...The Lord poured on him the heat of His anger and the might of battle*" (42:24-25).

Israel was afraid of the future. Yes, God had promised their exile would last only seventy years, but this didn't know if God would keep His promise. They had sinned against the Lord and they deserved His anger and wrath. Would God be faithful to His Word despite of their sin? Would God forgive them? Was it even possible for God to forgive them? These knots of fear bound Israel like chains.

We too, are often bound by fear knots. Like Israel, we have disobeyed God. We admit that. Earlier we confessed that we have sinned against God in thought, word, and deed – by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We confess that we like to gossip. That we sin in our anger towards others. We confess that we do not always trust in the Lord above all things or lead pure and decent lives in what we say and do. It's no wonder that during confession we say that we justly deserve God's punishment – because we do!

It's no wonder that people today often do not want to think about God, because they are afraid of Him and worry about what He thinks of us. Look at Martin Luther. He was so afraid of God and His anger that he nearly fainted when he conducted his first Mass. During the prayers, he said he wanted to run away. But of course, we can't run away and hide from God. We have to deal with Him, or perhaps we should say, He has to deal with us. And He does...

Isaiah 43 begins with the words, "But now..." With those words Isaiah comes to comfort us. Yes, the Lord is angry, but His anger is taken away. Yes, He punished His people Israel, but

He won't do that any longer as now He has come to save them. Now He will protect them. Now instead of letting His people be tied up in fear knots, He comes to His people and says, "Fear not!"

"But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine." (Isaiah 43:1)

With these words, God takes Israel back to the very act of creation. The Lord made them a nation and redeemed them from bondage in Egypt. He made Israel His chosen people. Called them by name and made them a nation of priests so that all the nations of the earth might be blessed through them. God told Israel that they belonged to Him.

Passing through the waters, walking through the fire – it makes no difference. God will be with His people and He will bring them through. The water will not overwhelm them and the fire will not consume them. "Fear not" says God "for I am with you!"

What God says to Israel, the Father said to His Son at the moment of His baptism. With Jesus facing the road that three years later would take Him to the terrible cross, God the Father spoke from Heaven, "You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased". Whenever His Son would need Him the most, God the Father would be there with the same promise, "I am with you."

Now in our Baptism, God says the same to us a hundred times over. We might instinctively know that God has created and formed us. But in baptism, He has made us His own. The Lord told Israel that He gave Egypt for them and that He gave "men in return for you". But the Lord has done much more for us. He did not give men in our place; He gave one Man in our place, His Son, Jesus Christ. At the cross, the Lord redeemed us. He paid the price for our sin and the sin of the world. There at the cross, God made us His own.

We are the Lord's because of what He has done. We have disobeyed God. We have rebelled against Him and like Israel deserve His punishment. But the Lord does not punish us, He punished His Son. Our disobedience, our rebellion, our sin was laid on Jesus. As Isaiah would say later on, "He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities." There are times when we are not faithful, but God is always faithful. We did not choose God, but He has chosen us. Therefore, the Lord is not just "The Savior"; He is "Our Savior"; He is "Your Savior".

And since God has done all of this for you, there is no reason to be afraid of Him. It is true that we will be tested by many trials and challenges, some of them terrible and fearful. God never promises that life will be easy for His people. But what He does promise, is to bring us through them all. Jesus says, "In the world you will have tribulation, but take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

So be confident in the Lord in the midst of your trials. Let the promises of His Word undo all of the "fear knots" in your life and the lives of those around you. For the Lord has not only turned away His anger and overcome the world through the cross - but He has that for all of us. And so "fear not", God will always be with you. Amen.

