

Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

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

This brief service is intended as a simple form of daily prayer for individuals and families, and in other settings. When more than one person is present, the versicles 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. Prayers that are in bold type are to be prayed by all.

March 25th, 2020 A.D. – Lenten Midweek #4

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.

Opening Versicles

The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

Amen.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praise to Your name, O Most High;

To herald Your love in the morning,
Your truth at the close of the day.

Psalm 92:1–2

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.

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

Scripture Lesson – *I Corinthians 15:1-5*

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand,² and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

Sermon – *We Believe He Suffered* (Attached at the end of this service.)

Hymn – *Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus*

LSB#685

Nunc Dimittis

Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.

Luke 2:29–32

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that we turn from our wickedness and live. Graciously behold Your people who plead to You to spare us. Withdraw the scourge of Your wrath and be moved in mercy to turn away this pestilence from us; for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who taught us to pray....

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.**

Concluding Prayers

Visit our dwellings, O Lord, and in Your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of Your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. 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.

Psalm 103:1

Thanks be to God.

✠ We Believe He Suffered ✠

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God – the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Last week, as we continued our look at the Nicene Creed this Lenten season, we discussed how Jesus came to us for our salvation from sin. This is an important point to understand for Christians, especially as we now talk about Jesus' suffering. For without the loving purpose of our salvation, the cross of Christ not only seems foolish, but also cruel.

I was reminded of this several years ago after a church service when I was talking to a friend and asked why his son did not come up to the front of the sanctuary for the children's message. His son was certainly the "right" age and had always come up before, but for some reason that Sunday he remained in the pew when all the other kids came up. "Well Pastor," my friend responded, "he doesn't like coming up anymore because you always talk about Jesus dying on the cross and he doesn't like hearing about Jesus suffering and dying."

My friend and his son were faithful Christians and his response to my inquiry made me look a little more carefully at how I proclaimed the Good News, especially to our youngest members. But I think that my friend's son didn't like hearing about the suffering of Christ because he didn't make the connection that Jesus' suffering was for him. It was for his salvation. Seen in the light of this salvation, the suffering and death of Jesus does even more than just tell us how we are saved by God, it tells us how we are loved by Him as well.

The section of the Nicene Creed that talks about Jesus's suffering and death is remarkably short and to the point. It simply states that Jesus, "*was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried*". This section is not nearly as elaborate as the other parts of the Creed that talk about the nature of Christ or the work of the Holy Spirit. But perhaps this is the case because of the lack of controversy surrounding the suffering and death of Jesus.

Unlike many people today, the authors of the Nicene Creed had no doubts about the objective, historical reality of the crucifixion of Jesus. Therefore, they simply noted that He suffered under the Roman governor Pontius Pilate and was buried, as God's Word clearly states. There was no need to elaborate or clarify this fact since it was a long-held reality of the Christian faith. Does this tell us everything there is to know about the death of our Savior? No, but it tells

us what is revealed in the Scriptures about His suffering and why we need to know it. It was for us and for our salvation.

I believe there is a lesson to be learned here for Christians as we live and, God forbid, perhaps even die during this current pandemic. As time goes by, if we haven't already, we will begin to wonder what God is doing with this coronavirus and how we should respond. And here we must be like those who wrote the Nicene Creed – we say what Scripture teaches us and no more. Turning to God's Word we confess that death and sickness were not part of God's original plan for creation but came into this world through sin. Therefore, in times like these, it is especially important that we turn away from our sins, confess them before God and seek forgiveness in Jesus' name. And then we listen to God's commands to love Him and our neighbors, knowing that we have been forgiven through our faith in Christ.

This atonement for sin, not only motivates us to live as God's people, but it also makes sense of the suffering and death of our Savior. It makes the cross of Christ not something that we should shy away from or something that is foolish and cruel. But rather "our salvation" makes the cross something that we embrace. For there, at the cross where our Savior suffered and died, we were not only saved from sin and death, we also see the love that God has for us. In the days and weeks ahead, may we all remember the suffering of Christ, so that we may all remember the incomprehensible depth of God's love for us. Amen.