

Pray they like the *heavenly, hallowed*

your *of eat*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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Matthew 6:5-14

debt

And lead us

over us from



CHRIST COMMUNITY
CHURCH

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INTRODUCTION

Q. 98. WHAT IS PRAYER?

A. *Prayer is an offering up of our desires to God for things agreeable to His will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgement of His mercies.*

If you could ask Jesus, whom you had seen work an assortment of miracles and display a variety of powers, to teach you how to do one thing, what would it be? The disciples in **Luke 11:1** chose prayer! This tells us that they were impressed by the way Jesus talked and related to God. They longed for the same. Jesus grants their request by leading them in the Lord's Prayer as the pattern for how they are to pray.

This prayer also teaches the Church how to pray and relate to God in all of His glory. It contains a brief introduction, six (or seven, if you follow Martin Luther's breakdown) short petitions, and a closing doxology. *This should make prayer simple, right?* Well, yes and no. Yes, in the sense that it helps to orient us to what prayer should really be about: **God's glory and not our own**. No, in that it was never meant to be prayed exactly as written with no meditation, consideration, or personalization. Eugene Peterson writes in *Tell It Slant: A Conversation on the Language of Jesus in His Stories and Prayers*:

The oldest and most implacable enemy in the practice of prayer is depersonalization, turning prayer into a technique, using prayer as a device In our technology-saturated culture, we frequently request help by asking, "How do I pray?" or even worse, "How do I pray effectively?" The question distorts what is fundamentally a personal relation into an impersonal technique. God is conceived as an idea or a force or a higher power. Prayer is reduced to an exercise in control: "If I can just get into the right mood and get the right words in the right order, I can get God to do what I want or get what I need."

In addition, as sinners, we continue to wrestle with both our fallen natures and the forces that prohibit our relating to God. While the answer to question 98 of the Shorter Catechism states, "Prayer is an offering up our desires to God for things agreeable to His will..." our selfishness often dominates. *How easy is it for us to offer up our desires to*

anything beyond our selfish wants? C.S. Lewis captures this overall difficulty well in *Letters to Malcolm: Chiefly on Prayer*:

Prayer is irksome. An excuse to omit it is never unwelcome. When it is over, this casts a feeling of relief and holiday over the rest of the day. We are reluctant to begin. We are delighted to finish....The painful effort which prayer involves is no proof that we are doing something we were not created to do. If we were perfected, prayer would not be a duty, it would be a delight. Some day, please God, it will be....But the very activities for which we were created are, while we live on earth, variously impeded: by evil in ourselves or in others. Not to practice them is to abandon our humanity. To practice them spontaneously and delightfully is not yet possible. This situation creates the category of duty, the whole specifically moral realm.

We should daily perform the duty of prayer for the good of our souls and our relationship with God the Father. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus beautifully guides our relating to God as our Father so as to enjoy and display His glory. Each phrase merits deeper meditation and growth in our knowledge of who God is and who we are in reference to Him.

We encourage you to use this devotional to prepare you and your family for the worship service on Sunday. At the end of this devotional, there are three options for praying the Lord's Prayer to help you engage this gift from Christ more meaningfully. We pray that your time in this devotional and in the sermon series will result in a deeper knowledge of and relationship to the glory of God!

Sola Deo Gloria!

SERMON SCHEDULE

JUNE 21ST: BAPTISM: *Matthew 6:5-6*

JUNE 28TH: COMMUNION: *Matthew 6:7-8*

JULY 5TH: *Matthew 6:9*

JULY 12TH: *Matthew 6:10*

JULY 19TH: COMMUNION: *Matthew 6:11*

JULY 26TH: *Matthew 6:12, 14-15*

AUGUST 2ND: *Matthew 6:13*

Matthew 6:9-13: The Lord's Prayer:

Q. 99. WHAT RULE HAS GOD GIVEN FOR OUR DIRECTION IN PRAYER?

A. *The whole Word of God is of use to direct us in prayer; but the special rule of direction is that form of prayer which Christ taught his disciples, commonly called The Lord's Prayer.*

PRAY THEN LIKE THIS:

“OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN,

HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME.

YOUR KINGDOM COME,

YOUR WILL BE DONE,

ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD,

AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS,

AS WE ALSO HAVE FORGIVEN OUR DEBTORS.

AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION,

BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL.

**FOR YOURS IS THE KINGDOM AND THE POWER AND THE GLORY,
FOREVER.**

AMEN.”

Matthew 6:5-6: And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites.

A man is what he is on his knees before God, and nothing more.

ROBERT MURRAY M'CHEYNE

1. Read **PSALM 81:1-7**. Recount and praise God for the times that He has answered you in the secret places.
2. In **JOHN 14:1-6**, Jesus declares that he goes to prepare a place for us and that he is the only way to get there. Describe this place and who is there.
3. Eugene Peterson in *Tell It Slant* writes: “Prayer is not theater.” Compare this quote to **MATTHEW 6:5-6**. What is Jesus saying not to do? Who should be the main audience for our prayers?
4. What does God desire for His children according to **PSALM 81:13-16**? Do you desire this for you and your family?

God is not interested in our public displays of piety. He's not interested in religion in terms of outward show. He's interested in godliness. Our spiritual lives are means to the end of godliness, and prayer is one of the key aspects of our spirituality.

R.C. SPROUL, THE PRAYER OF THE LORD

And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Matthew 6:7-8: And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases...

Prayer is a service of the heart, and not merely of the lip and knee. It is a “pouring out of the soul before God,” and “a stirring up of ourselves to lay hold on God.” Let none then deceive themselves with mere formal services, whether public or private.

CHARLES SIMEON, HORAE HOMILETICAE: MATTHEW

1. Based on **PSALM 139:1-6**, how intimately does God know us? What does this suggest about His ability to truly care for us?
2. How are we to get to know God the Father based on **JOHN 1:14-18**?
3. Eugene Peterson in *Tell It Slant* writes, “Prayer is not rhetoric.” Compare this quote to **MATTHEW 6:7-8**. What is Jesus saying not to do? Is it more important to use certain words in prayer or to be reverent and real?
4. Read **PSALM 139:7-12** and reflect on all the places where you have experienced the presence of God. Give thanks for His presence in both the light and the dark.

Believers do not pray, with the view of informing God about things unknown to him, or of exciting him to do his duty, or of urging him as though he were reluctant. On the contrary, they pray, in order that they may arouse themselves to seek him, that they may exercise their faith in meditating on his promises, that they may relieve themselves from their anxieties by pouring them into his bosom; in a word, that they may declare that from Him alone they hope and expect, both for themselves and for others, all good things.

JOHN CALVIN, COMMENTARY ON MATTHEW

Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Matthew 6:9: Pray they like this: Our Father in heaven!

Q. 100. WHAT DOES THE PREFACE OF THE LORD'S PRAYER TEACH US?

A. *The preface of the Lord's prayer, (which is, **Our Father in heaven,**) teaches us to draw near to God with all holy reverence and confidence, as children to a father, able and ready to help us; and that we should pray with and for others.*

1. According to **PSALM 115:1-3**, glory and honor should be given to whom /why?
2. Once you become a child of God the Father, can you be removed from His family based on **JOHN 10:25-30**? Does this grant you the freedom to sin or to worship and enjoy all the benefits of an heir?
3. Notice the use of the plural "our" and "us" throughout the Lord's Prayer in **MATTHEW 6:9-13**. William H. Willimon and Stanley Hauerwas in *Lord, Teach Us to Pray* describe the use of the plural for this reason: "Joining our voices with others in the repetition of this prayer, we are reminded that being a Christian is too tough to go alone. This is public theology." Is your faith and walk with God more individualistic or communal?
4. "Our Father in heaven..." in **MATTHEW 6:9** captures the proximity and distance, the personal and otherness of God. In what ways is God near and far, personal and other to you?
5. Read **PSALM 115:12-15**. What is the result of God's name being glorified?

Q. 101. WHAT DO WE PRAY FOR IN THE FIRST PETITION?

A. *In the first petition, (which is, **hallowed be your name,**) we pray, that God would enable us and others to glorify Him in all that He makes Himself known; and that He would dispose all things to His own glory.*

hallowed be your name.

Matthew 6:10: Your kingdom come!

Q. 102. WHAT DO WE PRAY FOR IN THE SECOND PETITION?

A. *In the second petition, (which is, **Your kingdom come,**) we pray, that Satan’s kingdom may be destroyed; and that the kingdom of grace may be advanced, ourselves and others brought into it, and kept in it; and that the kingdom of glory may be hastened.*

1. How does **PSALM 145:1-13** describe God’s rule in His everlasting kingdom?
2. Based on **JOHN 1:9-13**, who is sovereign over this world and its kingdoms?
3. Darrell L. Guder in *The Missional Church* writes, “As we pray ‘your kingdom come,’ (**MATTHEW 6:10**) we affirm that Jesus Christ has triumphed over the powers of sin and death, but we also declare that the joy and freedom of life within the reign of God are not yet a full reality.” What parts of the kingdom are we enjoying now and what part has not yet come?
4. What is God’s will? How does it currently differ in heaven than on earth?
5. Read **PSALM 145:14-21** and give thanks for how God engages His children in the kingdom between the now and the not yet.

Q. 103. WHAT DO WE PRAY FOR IN THE THIRD PETITION?

A. *In the third petition, (which is, **your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven,**) we pray, that God, by His grace, would make us able and willing to know, obey, and submit to His will in all things, as the angels do in heaven.*

your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6:11: Give us this day

Q. 104. WHAT DO WE PRAY FOR IN THE FOURTH PETITION?

A. *In the fourth petition, (which is, Give us this day our daily bread,) we pray, that of God's free gift we may receive a competent portion of the good things of this life, and enjoy His blessing with them.*

1. What does **PSALM 37:23-29** teach us about the provision of God? Remember when God has provided for you in the midst of difficult circumstances.
2. Read **JOHN 6:35-40** and give thanks for the provision of Jesus as the true bread of life.
3. Timothy Keller in *Prayer* observes that Martin Luther “sees a social dimension to this prayer as well. For all to get daily bread, there must be a thriving economy, good employment, and a just society. Therefore, to pray ‘give us- all the people of our land- daily bread’ is to pray against ‘wanton exploitation’ in business, trade, and labor, which ‘crushes the poor and deprives them of their daily bread.’” What is our responsibility to ensure that our brothers and sisters around the world have their basic daily needs met in order to be able to glorify God?
4. Is **MATTHEW 6:11** about us and our needs or about us having what we need in order to glorify God? (See **PROVERBS 30:7-9**)
5. According to **PSALM 37:39-40**, what is our greatest need and who meets it?

Two things I ask of you: deny them not to me before I die: Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, lest I be full and deny you and say, “Who is the Lord?” or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.

PROVERBS 30:7-9

Our daily bread.

Matthew 6:12: And forgive us our debts,

Q. 105. WHAT DO WE PRAY FOR IN THE FIFTH PETITION?

A. *In the fifth petition, (which is, **And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors,**) we pray, that God, for Christ's sake, would freely pardon all our sins; which we are the rather encouraged to ask, because by His grace we are enabled from the heart to forgive others.*

1. Why should we bless the Lord according to **PSALM 103:1-5**? Thank the Lord for the redemptive benefits that you most resonate with from the passage.
2. Read **JOHN 3:16-21**. Why did God send Jesus into this world of darkness?
3. Herman Witsius in *Dissertations on the Lord's Prayer* help us to understand the term "debt" with this explanation: "Man's first debt is obedience to God. When that debt has not been paid, it is followed by another debt of sin, by which the sinner owes a debt to Divine justice." How great is the debt for which you have been forgiven? Give thanks to God for Christ paying what you could never pay in order to be restored to and glorify Him.
4. Based on **MATTHEW 6:12**, what is one of the surest signs of our forgiveness? Is there any one that you are struggling to forgive?
5. Meditate on **PSALM 103:6-14**. What truths are you thankful for from this text?

The ability to forgive is one of the surest signs of having been forgiven. It is part of the proof that we have received God's grace...Those who are truly forgiven, truly forgive. The sins they commit are of greater importance to them than the sins they suffer.

PHILIP GRAHAM RYKEN, WHEN YOU PRAY

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Matthew 6:13: And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Q. 106. WHAT DO WE PRAY FOR IN THE SIXTH PETITION?

A. *In the sixth petition, (which is, **And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,**) we pray, that God would either keep us from being tempted by sin, or support and deliver us when we are tempted.*

1. Read **PSALM 91:1-10** and make note of the ways in which the Lord protects His children.
2. How does Jesus, as the Good Shepherd, differ from the hired hand and the thief in **JOHN 10:7-18**?
3. Why do you think Jesus teaches us in **MATTHEW 6:13** to ask God not to lead us into temptation and to deliver us from the evil one? Is this purely for self preservation or to protect the glory of God as displayed in us?
4. Compare **1 CHRONICLES 29:10-11** to the doxology (“For Yours is the kingdom...”) at the end of **MATTHEW 6:13**. How do these help put our prayers into perspective?
5. Meditate on God’s protection and deliverance in **PSALM 91:11-16**. Give thanks for the times that God has delivered you from temptation and the Evil One.

Q. 107. WHAT DOES THE CONCLUSION OF THE LORD’S PRAYER TEACH US?

A. *The conclusion of the Lord’s Prayer, (which is, **For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**) teaches us, to take our encouragement in prayer from God only, and in our prayers to praise Him, ascribing kingdom, power, and glory to Him. And in testimony of our desire, and assurance to be heard, we say, **Amen.***

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

WAYS TO PRAY THE LORD'S PRAYER

OPTION 1:

Set aside one day a week to apply the ACTS method of prayer to each phrase as you pray through the Lord's Prayer. For example: "Our Father in heaven"

ADORATION: Give praise and glory to God for making you His child

CONFESSION: Confess to the ways in which you fail to acknowledge and live by this truth

THANKSGIVING: Give thanks for the many benefits and blessings that come from God being our Father

SUPPLICATION: Pray for others to come to know or realize all of the benefits and blessings that come from God being our Father

OPTION 2:

Take each phrase and use it as a prayer for the day emphasizing the truths related to each phrase. The schedule would be as follows:

SUNDAY: Our Father in heaven

MONDAY: Hallowed be your name

TUESDAY: Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven

WEDNESDAY: Give us this day our daily bread

THURSDAY: Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors

FRIDAY: Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil

SATURDAY: For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever

OPTION 3:

Take each phrase and pray for these associated concepts related to the glory of God as follows:

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME: Pray for the glory of God's attributes and name to be made known in greater measure

YOUR KINGDOM COME: Pray for the glory of God's kingdom to be revealed

YOUR WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN: Pray for the glory of God's redemptive will to change people's lives

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD: Pray for God's provision so that we may glorify Him

AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS, AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS: Pray for God's forgiveness so that we may glorify Him as we forgive others

AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL: Pray for God's protection and deliverance from future temptations and evils so that we may continue to glorify Him