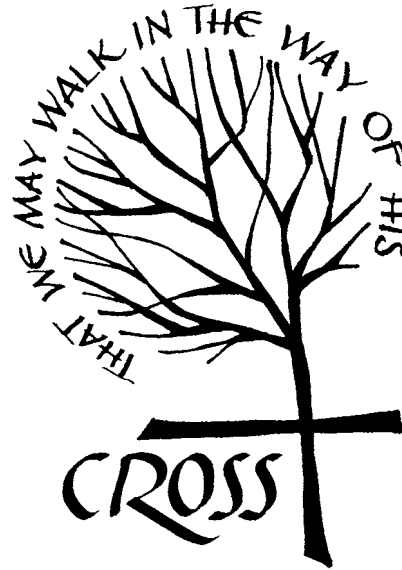


Prayer Vigil 2014



We are pleased that you have accepted the invitation to spend an hour in prayer and meditation during these forty hours leading up to Easter 2014. It is our hope that this time of prayer and meditation will be a blessing to you, and that your faith and your daily prayer life will be enhanced by this experience.

Prayer is the means God gave to us to communicate with Him, and for building a personal relationship with Him. He answers our prayers according to His will for us, and He speaks to us through His Word, and through His Spirit that indwells us as His baptized children. Prayer is an act of Christian obedience. Jesus Himself often spent time in prayer to His Heavenly Father, the most intense being when He went with Peter, James and John into the Garden of Gethsemane on the night

of His betrayal. He said to them that He was overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Then He prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may Your will be done". (Matthew 26:39). In Luke 22:44, we read that Jesus, being in anguish during this time in the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives, prayed more earnestly, and that His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

Jesus showed us throughout His life here on this earth, that although He was God in the flesh, He needed to pray to His Heavenly Father. So when the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray (Luke 11:1-4, Matthew 6:9-13), Jesus responded with what we know as the Lord's Prayer. From their request, we see that even the disciples, who were with Jesus every day, witnessing His life and seeing how He prayed, still needed help with how to pray. Their question shows us the common human tendency to want to "do" the spiritual life correctly, to know the "right" way. Jesus offered the disciples much advice as to how they should pray:

- John 14:14 – You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.
- John 16:23-24 – I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.
- Matthew 6:5-8: And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues, and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth; they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into

your room, close the door, and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like the pagans, for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

The Lord's Prayer, also referred to as the Our Father Prayer, was Jesus's response to the disciples as a model for prayer. Jesus signals a basic truth, that prayer and the spiritual life are about a loving relationship that God wants to have with each of his children here on this earth. In the early Christian church, the privilege of praying this prayer was reserved for baptized members of the church, and was called the Prayer of Believers. However, we now pray this prayer routinely at Divine Services or at other times, sometimes mouthing it without meditating or thinking about the words, and what we are asking of God, or saying to Him. We need to take a closer look at this prayer so that when we pray it, we can do so with reverence, with thoughtfulness, with sincerity, and with a greater understanding of who God is, and what our relationship with Him and our fellow man should be.

Over the past six weeks of Lent, we have heard a series of sermons on the Lord's Prayer, and it seems appropriate that we should review all the tenets contained therein, and then apply them to our own lives in prayer and in action. So during this prayer time, we will study each petition of the Lord's Prayer as identified in Luther's Small Catechism. There are four sections for study, meditation and prayer for each of the petitions:

1. The first section consists of the petition of the Lord's Prayer and its meaning as explained in Luther's Small Catechism.
2. The second section is a brief study on the petition and elaboration on what we are praying.
3. The third section (*italicized text*) includes thoughts for meditation and prayer based on the petition just studied.
4. The fourth section (underlined text) is a hymn from the Lutheran Service Book that can be used as a guide for further prayer and meditation.

Before we begin this study of each of the petitions in the Lord's Prayer, let us ask God for His guidance and His wisdom in helping us to understand the importance of prayer in our daily lives, and in understanding what Jesus was trying to teach when He gave the disciples The Lord's Prayer. So let us pray:

Father in Heaven, we thank You that we are able to communicate with You through prayer, and that we can do this at any time, wherever we are, whatever our needs may be. Your Son Jesus told us that anything we ask in His name, You will give to us. We thank You that You are always there to hear our prayers, that we never get a busy signal when we bow our heads

or kneel in prayer. We are told in Proverbs 3 to “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight”. So it is with this in mind that we come this day in prayer to You, asking You to guide our thoughts and meditation as we study the Lord’s Prayer, and we pray that our understanding of prayer may lead us to a deeper relationship with You, and to a more active life of faith and service to You. We ask this in the name of Our Risen Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

The Introduction

Our Father who art in heaven.

What does this mean?

"With these words, God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father, and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence, we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father."

The opening words of Jesus' prayer, "Our Father who art in heaven," are very significant. They remind us that we have personal and direct access to God the Father because he is our Creator. He knew us before we were formed in the womb. (Psalm 139). The Creator himself is available to us! We don't need an appointment. We can pray anytime and anywhere the urge hits us. St. Paul wrote in Philippians 4:5-7: *“The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”* God the Father, the one who should be too busy for us, is not too busy for us at all. In fact, it is quite the opposite. In prayer, through Jesus who died on the cross so that we may be reconciled to God, and through the presence of the Holy Spirit dwelling in us and acting as our intermediary, we have an audience with God himself. Bible scholars agree that behind the Greek word Πάτερ (pater), "father", is the word `abba in Jesus' native Aramaic tongue. Rather than the formal word for "father," `abba is the family word, something like the affectionate "Dad" or "Daddy" that we use in English. (Mark 14:36; Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6). There is a formal word for "father," but the word used here stresses the intimate family relationship. Though the rabbis spoke of God as the Father of the people or the nation, Jesus teaches us to address God as our own personal Father, a new and wonderful revelation.

In praying "Our Father", or Abba as Jesus did, we have the same access to God, the Heavenly Father, as Jesus did. Because of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in us, we too are sons and daughters of the Creator God, possessing all the same privileges of Jesus himself. We have access to God through the authority of Jesus himself.

Jesus teaches us to pray to our Father "who art in heaven," which adds perspective to our understanding of God. Though Solomon built a temple for God, he prayed, "But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!" (1 Kings 8:27) Yes, God is greater than his creation, but "the heavens" is a way to understand the greatness of God's dwelling. When we reflect on God's greatness, it is easier to have faith to ask of him things that seem difficult to us.

- *Think about God as your Father. In what ways is your earthly father like Him, and in what ways different? In what ways would you like your relationship with God to grow?*
- *Pray for God's guidance in helping you to grow your relationship with Him, and draw you closer to Him.*
- *Pray that God would reveal Himself to your family, friends, and colleagues, so that they may also come into a relationship with Him as their Heavenly Father through His Son Jesus Christ.*



Hymn 901 - Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

The First Petition.

Hallowed be Thy name.

What does this mean?

"God's name is certainly holy in itself; but we pray in this petition that it may become holy among us also."

The Greek word for hallowed is ἁγιασθήτω (hagiasthaito), which means "to treat as holy, to reverence." "Hallowed" comes from the English word "holy." Jesus included the concept of "hallowed" in this prayer because without it, our understanding of "Father" can take on an earthly connotation and make us feel that we can presume upon and take advantage of the Father's graciousness towards us. "Hallowed" reminds us that the Father is holy, set apart

from sin, and from us as sinners. For God to be both the Father of sinners and set apart from sin requires Jesus' atonement for our sins through His suffering, death and resurrection. When we pray with the privilege of intimacy to our Heavenly Father as "Abba, Daddy," we are never to imagine that we are on the same level as God, as His equals. He is always our Father, but he is holy and is to be exalted. Jesus teaches us to call God our Father, recognizing his exalted place of dwelling in heaven, and to reverence him.

How is God's name kept holy?

"God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!"

If we pray sincerely with our hearts to be true to God's Word and to keep His name holy, we can be sure that it pleases God immensely to know that His honor and praise are exalted above everything else, and His Word is taught in its purity and is esteemed precious and dear.

- *Meditate on what in our lives and in our words "hallows" the name of our Father? Are we leading holy lives? What in our lives need to be changed to show reverence for God?*
- *Pray for God's strength in us to enable us to lead holy lives.*
- *Pray that God's Word will be taught in its truth and purity in all churches, and that all who hear His Word will come to faith in Him, and grow in their faith..*

Hymn 940 - Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

The Second Petition.

Thy kingdom come.

What does this mean?

"The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also."

The idea of the Kingdom of God is complex. It is not an earthly kingdom. Jesus Himself, in response to Pilate in John 18:36, says that His kingdom is not of this world. The notion of a heavenly kingdom goes far back into the Old Testament, at least to the book of Exodus, where God reveals himself as Israel's King. He makes a covenant with them in the form of an ancient suzerain (ruler) and vassal (servant) treaty, a treaty made between a great king and a subservient people (Exodus 19:3-6). The tabernacle in the wilderness is the throne room of

a desert monarch. He leads them by day and night. Having no king but Yahweh (God) is one of the unique marks of the Israelites, to the extent that their clamoring for a king under Samuel's judgeship is considered a sin (1 Samuel 8).

John the Baptist proclaims, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near" (Matthew 3:2), and Jesus takes up the same message (Matthew 4:17). He sends out his disciples with the authority to do miracles and proclaim to villages, "The kingdom of God is near you" (Luke 10:9, 11). The kingdom of God comes when Jesus proclaims God's reign, and demonstrates that reign by preaching good news to the poor, freedom for the prisoners, sight for the blind, release for the oppressed, and the Jubilee Day of the Lord (Luke 4:18-19). The kingdom is here in Jesus and his disciples - and in you and me, His believers - but it will come fully and completely when Jesus returns to earth to reign as King and Lord of all (Revelation 11:15).

Jesus tells us to pray that the Kingdom of God come soon. In the Book of Revelation, we read, "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:20). The Kingdom will only be present fully when Christ returns, when "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever" (Revelation 11:15).



How does God's kingdom come?

"God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity."

When we pray "Thy kingdom come," we are praying that the reality that God is present and active be made clear to the entire world, and for Him to reign in the hearts of all people on earth. We demand of God that he be as active and present here and now as he is and will be in heaven. Praying for the kingdom is acknowledging that God is real and at work in the here and now.

- *Meditate on how God is manifesting the power and glory of his kingdom in us, and throughout our world.*
- *How is Christ demonstrating His reign in your life to you personally, and to others around you?*

- *How can you help to fulfill the Great Commission to preach the Good News to all creation (Mark 16:18), and thereby hasten the return of Jesus Christ to this earth?*
- *Pray that God will allow you to help in the spread of the Good News.*
- *Pray for those whom you know who have not heard the Good News, or are resistant to it, that Jesus may come to reign in their hearts*

Hymn 493 - A Hymn Of Glory Let Us Sing



The Third Petition.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

What does this mean?

"The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer; but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also."

This petition is also a condition for prayer, that all our prayers conform first to God's will. How can we pray the kind of prayer that Jesus wants of us, and still ask for our petty desires which are so clearly contrary to God's revealed will in the Bible? Part of that teaching, is to determine God's will and pray along those lines. For us as disciples of Christ, our prayers are not to be selfish prayers, but prayers in tune with, and guided by, God's will.

How is God's will done?

"God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name, or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will."

We are to exhort God to bring about the completion of his plan to restore our relationship with him, so that once again we will live in his presence, free from pain and suffering. God's will is to be in relationship with us, to be present as our good, faithful and loving Father.

The first three petitions (imperative clauses) point us in exactly the same direction: to what God is already doing. It's important to note that Jesus' example of prayer doesn't start with our needs; it starts with a recognition of who God is, and what He is already doing and longs

to do. Jesus is concerned with our needs. Only God can provide for those needs, so our prayer must start with God. We begin by getting on the same page with God, by praying that heaven will break through and be present and visible on earth. That's what Jesus means when he adds that phrase "on earth as it is in heaven." God's desire and plan has heaven breaking through and being seen on earth.

- *Why are we asking for the Father's will to be done here on earth? How should this prayer affect our daily living? How might this prayer impact the world we live in today?*
- *Pray that God will enable you to live your life in accordance with His will, and that He will teach us to pray according to His will.*
- *Pray that all nations and peoples throughout this world may come to recognize who the true God is and worship Him only, and that all may come to believe in His Son Jesus so that they may have the gift of eternal salvation.*

Hymn 685 - Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

The Fourth Petition.

Give us this day our daily bread.

What does this mean?

"God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people; but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this, and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving."



What is meant by daily bread?

"Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbours, and the like."

The fourth petition in this prayer is for our own needs, and for the needs of all, believers and unbelievers. It comes after we have recognized God as our Creator, honored His Name, prayed for His Kingdom to come, and asked that His will be done on earth as in heaven. Now we pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." This is a curious phrase, because in one short sentence it includes two words that are specific to the current day.

The word translated "This day" is Greek ἡμέραν (hemeron), a fairly common word that means "today". But also in the sentence is an extremely rare word, which is usually translated "daily," the word ἐπιούσιον (epiousion). This is a prayer for the immediate and not distant future and is reminiscent of Exodus 16:15-20 where the Israelites were told to gather only enough manna for today.

So, the prayer means something like, "Give us today everything that we need for today," and it fits very well with Jesus' teaching later in Matthew 6:34, "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own".

The implication here is that we are to come to God with our daily needs. When we say "Give us," that doesn't mean we don't expect to work for our living, but that we recognize God as our Provider. Jesus teaches us to learn to become dependent upon our Father, and to bring to him our daily needs.

In this petition, we are not only asking God to satisfy our needs, but also the needs of others. God is interested in the welfare of all, whether they are His children or not. He is interested in everything about us. . In Psalm 145:15-16, we read: "The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing."

- *Do you like to think of yourself as being self-reliant? Why do we seek at times to be independent of God? Why should we ask God to "give" us daily bread so long as we can earn a living and provide for ourselves?*
- *Give God thanks for His continual provision, care and protection, and pray that all will come to know that it is God who provides for all our needs.*
- *Pray for those living in poverty here in Canada and around the world, those without some or all of the basic necessities of life – food, shelter, clothing, medicine, education, sanitation – that they too will be blessed this day and always with the things they need to sustain them and grant them a better life..*
- *Ask God to give you a spirit of generosity to enable you to share your daily blessings with those in need.*

Hymn 710 - The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

The Fifth Petition.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

What does this mean?



"We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them; but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace; for we daily sin much, and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us."

This petition of the Lord's Prayer is a demanding one. Not only do we ask God's forgiveness for our daily offenses, but we link God's forgiveness of us with our forgiveness of others. Forgiving others is not always easy to do. We need God's help to do it. But it must be done or we ourselves cannot receive

God's mercy. Not only is Jesus showing us our need to pray daily for forgiveness, He is also making a point in this prayer, a point which he explains in more detail just after the prayer. "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, your Father will not forgive your trespasses." (Matthew 6:14-15) How could it be plainer? We must forgive, if we are to be considered sons of the Father. Otherwise he will not forgive us.

True forgiveness does not minimize the sin or the hurt, nor excuse the sinner. True forgiveness chooses not to hold the sin against the sinner any longer. True forgiveness is pardon.

Forgiveness is at the heart of Christianity and is essential to this prayer, because it correctly assesses our situation. Forgiveness is always preceded by sin. The Lord's Prayer reminds us of our need for forgiveness, and gives us the opportunity to go before our good and gracious Heavenly Father and acknowledge His grace and forgiveness.

The Greek word ἄφεσις (aphes) translated as forgiveness also means to cancel, remit payment, leave behind, forget, dismiss and to let go. It helps us understand what God has done for us and what we are called to do for those whom we must forgive. God does not hold onto the sin that is part of our nature. He has let it go, without any further consideration. In the same

way we are told to pray that we might be able to "let go" of the sins of those who have sinned or trespassed against us.

For just as we daily sin against God, and yet He forgives everything through grace, so we, too, must continually forgive our neighbor who does us injury, violence, and wrong, shows malice toward us, etc. If, therefore, you do not forgive, then do not think that God forgives you; but if you forgive, you have this consolation and assurance, that you are forgiven in heaven. Your forgiveness is not on account of your forgiving, for God forgives freely and without condition, and out of pure grace, because He has so promised, as the Gospel teaches. Jesus Himself says in Luke 6, 37: Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

- *Why should we continually ask forgiveness?*
- *How can unforgiveness on our part block God's blessing? How can unforgiveness block God's forgiveness?*
- *Is there any unforgiveness in your heart towards anyone? Pray that God will give you the grace to forgive those who have wronged you.*
- *Is there anyone to whom you bear resentment? Ask God to forgive you for harboring the resentment, and to give you the grace to love the individual, and for them to be delivered from their sins.*

Hymn 843 – Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

The Sixth Petition.

And lead us not into temptation.

What does this mean?

"God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory."

Life is not easy. It is a daily battle. Trials like laziness, deceit, sickness and failure can crush our spirits. False values and easy promises can entice us and even destroy our souls. Temptation is of three kinds: of the flesh, the world, and the devil. For we dwell in the flesh, and the old Adam is still alive in us and he incites us daily to do wrong. Then comes the world, which offends us with words and deeds, and drives us to impatience and anger. Lastly the devil, who lies, deceives, worries and harasses us on all sides, but whose main target is

the conscience and spiritual matters. And so we ask God to keep us from failing when we are tested, to help us to know the right thing to do, to deliver us from the evil which awaits us in life.

"When tempted, no one should say, 'God is tempting me.' For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed." (James 1:13-14) But God does test us. He allows circumstances that stretch and try us to make us pliable enough that he can remold us into his own image. "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance." (James 1:2-3)

Sometimes we flirt with temptation. We don't exactly seek temptation, but we are attracted to sinful things and so we sort of wink at them. Our resistance is low; we are being "dragged away and enticed" by our "own evil desire," as James puts it. This prayer, "and lead us not into temptation," helps teach us how important it is for us to stop flirting with sin but to actively flee and resist it.

This part of the Lord's Prayer reminds us to call upon the Father for strength when we are tempted. We are not to fight a secret war against sin; the Father wants to be our continual partner. He knows our weaknesses. He wants to free us and make us whole. What a wonderful Father! What wonderful grace! Jesus warned the disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane, on the night of His betrayal, to watch and pray that they may not enter into temptation.

"Therefore we must be armed and daily expect to be incessantly attacked, in order that no one may go on in security and heedlessly, as though the devil were far from us, but at all times expect and parry his blows. For though I am now chaste, patient, kind, and in firm faith, the devil will this very hour send such an arrow into my heart that I can scarcely stand. For he is an enemy that never desists nor becomes tired, so that when one temptation ceases, there always arise others and fresh ones."

- *If God does not lead us into temptation, why does He allow us to be tested?*
- *Do we need to face temptation alone? What temptations are you facing? What struggles (refinements) are you going through to avoid temptation?*
- *Pray for strength to resist temptation and for God's guidance to live a life that is pleasing to Him.*
- *Pray for those whom you know that are dealing with various temptations, that God may deliver them from their temptations, and that they will turn their lives over to Him.*

Hymn 663 – Rise, My Soul, To Watch and Pray**The Seventh Petition.****But deliver us from evil.***What does this mean?*

"We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil, of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven."

*Those who
die
in the*
LORD
*still
live*

In the Greek text this petition reads: Deliver or preserve us from **the** Evil One - τοῦ πονηροῦ (tou ponairou), or **the** Malicious One. Jesus was speaking of the devil, the one who slanders and is the father of lies. Jesus wanted the entire substance of all our prayers to be directed against our chief enemy. For it is the devil who hinders us in every way and here we pray for: the name or honour of God, God's kingdom and will, our daily bread, a cheerful good conscience, etc.

This seventh petition is a prayer for deliverance or rescue from the evil one, the Devil who is also known as Satan, which in Hebrew means to lie in wait, to oppose, to be an adversary. It is recognition of the spiritual nature of our warfare against sin. There is not just our own temptation, for there is a tempter – the Devil himself. In our own selves, we are no match for him. So we call out to God for rescue, for deliverance, for salvation from our enemy.

Therefore we sum it all up and say: Dear Father, help us be rid of all these calamities. But there is nevertheless also included whatever evil may happen to us under the devil's kingdom: poverty, shame, death, and, in short, all the agonizing misery and heartache of which there is such an unnumbered multitude on the earth. For since the devil is not only a liar, but also a murderer, he constantly seeks our life, and wreaks his anger whenever he can afflict our bodies with misfortune and harm. Hence it comes that he often breaks men's necks or drives people to insanity, drowns some, and incites many to commit suicide, and to many other terrible calamities. Therefore there is nothing for us to do upon earth but to pray against this arch-enemy without ceasing. For unless God preserved us, we would not be safe from him even for an hour.

Hence we see again how God wishes us to pray to Him also for all the things which affect our bodily interests, so that we seek and expect help nowhere else except in Him. But this matter He has put last; for if we are to be preserved and delivered from all evil, the name of God must first be hallowed in us, His kingdom must be with us, and His will be done. After that He will finally preserve us from sin and shame, and, besides, from everything that may hurt or injure us."

- *Why is evil all around us in this world? Why can we not fight the Devil on our own?*
- *How does God protect us from Satan and his evil cohorts?*
- *Pray that God keep us safe from all evil and securely in His love as we struggle against Satan in this life.*
- *Pray that Satan's influence in the life of others may be diminished, and that Christ's love will penetrate the darkness in their hearts.*

Hymn 656 - A Mighty Fortress is Our God

The Conclusion

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.

What does this mean?

This means that I should be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven, and are heard by Him, for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us

The Lord's Prayer ends with this crescendo of praise to the Lord God Almighty. After praying and acknowledging our need for God and his faithfulness to us, the only possible response is to give him glory, honour and praise: "For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."

The kingdom is the Kingdom of God ; the power means the creative power of God (Isaiah 40:26; Psalm 104; Romans 1:20), which is spoken of in the context of the expected coming of the new eon and the resurrection of man (Mark 13:26, 1 Corinthians 6:14; 15:43) and above all in the setting of the accomplished resurrection of Jesus (Romans 1:4; 1 Corinthians 1:24). The glory is not fame in the sense of popularity which passes so quickly. God already has his glory "in heaven," but the alienated world as a whole does not participate in it. Only in the confession of the faithful does it break into this world.

When the disciple (we believers) praises God in this way, it is an expression of his confidence that God is able to fulfil his request, even though it may not be in the way he desires. God's power creates a new space while we still could see nothing other than death, destruction, and the end of life. We pray "Thy kingdom come" with confidence because we also confess "Thine is the kingdom," which means, God is able to establish His kingdom. The great power of faith consists of the fact that one becomes involved in something which holds the future, which God already has in his hands now.

Amen.

What does this mean?

" Amen, Amen means Yes, yes, it shall be so."

"As James 1:6-7 says: "But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does."

- *Pray to God the Father to help us to pray the way Jesus taught us to pray*
- *Pray for God to give you the conviction to set aside a daily time for prayer if you are not already doing this.*
- *Pray that God will guide you in your prayers to include the needs of others together with yours. Ask God for His forgiveness by praying, "I confess that my way of praying is often self-centered and self-serving. Teach me to pray. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen."*

Hymn 895 - Now Thank We All Our God

Our prayer for you is that you may also have that same burning desire that Paul had, to walk with your Lord in prayer every minute, praying constantly, as he admonishes us in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, "Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

Remember this, as your family and you grow in your walk with God through the understanding of The Lord's Prayer.