

LENTEN SERIES BASED ON LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM

Week of Lent 3—Lord's Prayer

Lent and Lenten worship call us to repent, to make a new beginning. One of the best ways to begin again with God is through conversation, also known as prayer. And what better prayer than the one that Jesus taught us?

OPENING DIALOGUE

Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled.

My Lord, fill it.

I am weak in the faith;

strengthen me.

I am cold in love;

**warm me and make me fervent,
that my love may go out to my neighbor.**

I do not have a strong and firm faith;

at times I doubt and am unable to trust you altogether.

O Lord, help me.

Strengthen my faith and trust in you.

REFLECTION

Sunday, March 19

The Lord's Prayer: Introduction and The First Petition

Our Father in heaven.

What does this mean?

With these words God wants to attract us, so that we come to believe he is truly our Father and we are truly his children, in order that we may ask him boldly and with complete confidence, just as loving children ask their loving father.

Hallowed be your name.

What does this mean?

It is true that God's name is holy in itself, but we ask in this prayer that it may also become holy in and among us.

Monday, March 20

The Lord's Prayer: The Second Petition

Your kingdom come.

What does this mean?

In fact, God's kingdom comes on its own without our prayer, but we ask in this prayer that it may also come to us.

Tuesday, March 21

The Lord's Prayer: The Third Petition

Your will be done on earth as in heaven.

What does this mean?

In fact, God's good and gracious will comes about without our prayer, but we ask in this prayer that it may also come about in and among us.

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Wednesday, March 22

The Lord's Prayer: The Fourth Petition

Give us today our daily bread.

What does this mean?

In fact, God gives daily bread without our prayer, even to all evil people, but we ask in this prayer that God cause us to recognize what our daily bread is and to receive it with thanksgiving.

Thursday, March 23

The Lord's Prayer: The Fifth and Sixth Petition

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

What does this mean?

We ask in this prayer that our heavenly Father would not regard our sins nor deny these petitions on their account, for we are worthy of nothing for which we ask, nor have we earned it. Instead we ask that God would give us all things by grace, for we daily sin much and indeed deserve only punishment. So, on the other hand, we, too, truly want to forgive heartily and to do good gladly to those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial.

What does this mean?

It is true that God tempts no one, but we ask in this prayer that God would preserve and keep us, so that the devil, the world, and our flesh may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great and shameful sins, and that, although we may be attacked by them, we may finally prevail and gain the victory.

Friday, March 24- The Lord's Prayer

The Seventh Petition

And deliver us from evil.

What does this mean?

We ask in this prayer, as in a summary, that our Father in heaven may deliver us from all kinds of evil—affecting body or soul, property or reputation—and at last, when our final hour comes, may grant us a blessed end and take us by grace from this valley of tears to himself in heaven.

Saturday, March 25- The Lord's Prayer

Conclusion

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

What does this mean?

That I should be certain that such petitions are acceptable to and heard by our Father in heaven, for he himself commanded us to pray like this and has promised to hear us. "Amen, amen" means "Yes, yes, it is going to come about just like this."

PRAYER

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and extend to us your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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