

Lord, Teach us to Pray
“Deliver Us From Evil”

March 20, 2024

7:00 PM

As We Gather

Our Lent Midweek series, “Lord, Teach Us To Pray,” focuses on The Lord’s Prayer. Once, when Jesus’ disciples observed Him praying, they asked Him to teach them how to pray. In response, He gave them the prayer we know as The Lord’s Prayer. This prayer serves as both a prayer to pray and pattern for structuring our daily time in prayer. But above all, it reveals what our Lord knows we need on our Lenten journey.

The final petition is a prayer for deliverance from the evil one and all the evil things that may come into our lives. But it begs the question: What is evil? What makes it evil? Our minds may be drawn to the horrific physical evil that is carried out in our world, but the most deadly and pernicious evil is the spiritual evil that seeks to prevent the hallowing of God’s name, the coming of His Kingdom, and the accomplishment of His will.

Welcome

Gathering

“Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed” LSB 560

1 Drawn to the Cross, which Thou hast
blessed

With healing gifts for souls distressed,
To find in Thee my life, my rest,
Christ crucified, I come.

2 Thou knowest all my griefs and fears,
Thy grace abused, my misspent years;
Yet now to Thee with contrite tears,
Christ crucified, I come.

3 Wash me and take away each stain;
Let nothing of my sin remain.

For cleansing, though it be through pain,
Christ crucified, I come.

4 And then for work to do for Thee,
Which shall so sweet a service be
That angels well might envy me,
Christ crucified, I come.

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

C: **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

C: **Amen.**

+ Service of the Word +

First Reading: Ephesians 6:10-20

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Psalm 140 Read Responsively

Reader: Rescue me, LORD, from evildoers; protect me from the violent,
People: **who devise evil plans in their hearts and stir up war every day.**

Reader: They make their tongues as sharp as a serpent's; the poison of vipers is on their lips.
People: **Keep me safe, LORD, from the hands of the wicked; protect me from the violent, who devise ways to trip my feet.**

Reader: The arrogant have hidden a snare for me; they have spread out the cords of their net and have set traps for me along my path.
People: **I say to the LORD, "You are my God." Hear, LORD, my cry for mercy.**

Reader: Sovereign LORD, my strong deliverer, you shield my head in the day of battle.
People: **Do not grant the wicked their desires, LORD; do not let their plans succeed.**

Reader: Those who surround me proudly rear their heads; may the mischief of their lips engulf them.
People: **May burning coals fall on them; may they be thrown into the fire, into miry pits, never to rise.**

Reader: May slanderers not be established in the land; may disaster hunt down the violent.
People: **I know that the LORD secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy.**

Reader: Surely the righteous will praise your name, and the upright will live in your presence.

All: **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen.**

Holy Gospel: Matthew 12:22-29

Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see. ²³ All the people were astonished and said, "Could this be the Son of David?"

²⁴ But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons."

²⁵ Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. ²⁶ If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand? ²⁷ And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. ²⁸ But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

²⁹ "Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can plunder his house.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You O Christ!

Catechism

Pastor: What is the Seventh Petition?

People: **But Deliver Us From Evil**

Pastor: What does this mean?

People: **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.**

Sermon

"Deliver Us From Evil"

Offering

"Baptismal Waters Cover Me" LSB 616

1 Baptismal waters cover me
As I approach on bended knee;
My Father's mercy here I plead,
For grievous sins of thought and deed.

2 I look to Christ upon the tree,
His body broken there for me;
I lay before Him all my sin,
My darkest secrets from within.

3 Lord, may Your wounded hand impart
Your healing to my broken heart;

Your love alone can form in me
A heart that serves You joyfully.

4 From Your own mouth comes forth a word;
Your Shepherd speaks, but you are heard;
Through Him Your hand now stretches out,
Forgiving sin, destroying doubt.

5 Baptismal waters cover me;
Christ's wounded hand has set me free.
Held in my Father's strong embrace,
With joy I praise Him for His grace.

Prayer

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.

Benediction

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.

People: Amen.

"Christ Sits at God's Right Hand" LSB 564

1 Christ sits at God's right hand
His saving work complete,
To reign till ev'ry foe will lie
Beneath His feet –
All That the Father planned,
The Son sought to fulfill
When first He said "Lord, here am I
To do Your will."

2 Christ was that priest God swore,
Uniquely First and Last,
Who would in righteousness and love
Be unsurpassed:
"A priest forever more"
An oath God would not break,
"A priest within the order of Melchizedek"

3 Christ's altar was the tree,
Whereon the world's behalf
He shed a blood, unlike the blood
Of goat or calf,
To seal God's guarantee
Of grace that cannot fail;
With blood He entered for our good
Behind the veil.

4 What costly sacrifice
To cover human sin!

Who but Christ Jesus had the right
To enter in?
His blood, that sprinkled price,
So we might be assured
That our inheritance in light
Has been secured.

5 Then let us now draw near,
Washed in that precious flood
And enter the Most Holy Place
By Jesus' blood.
From hearts that are sincere,
Let tongues our hope profess,
And trust anew God's faithful grace
That we confess.

Please Rise

6 All praise to Christ we bring,
Our Lord who intercedes,
Our great High Priest enthroned above
Who knows our needs;
And to the Father sing
Our songs of thankful praise,
Who with the Spirit reigns in love
For endless days.

Offering

<http://stjohnslutheran.net/give/>

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