

Colossians 3:16

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,
teaching and admonishing one another
in all wisdom,
singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*



This third of five devotionals focuses on each of the five petitions of the Lord's Prayer. The Lord's Prayer is not only intended to be a stand-alone prayer, but also a model to guide us in framing our own prayers. Each petition is both very concise and very comprehensive. The Scriptures below for each petition are meant to help us open up our prayers, to reach deeper in and higher up.

Scripture for "Give us this day our daily bread."

Proverbs 30:8-9 *Give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me,⁹ 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.*

Isaiah 55:1-2 *Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and he who has no money, come, buy and eat!*

Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

² *Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?*

Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

Habakkuk 3:17-18 *Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines,
the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food,
the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls,*

¹⁸ *yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.*

Matthew 4:4 *But Jesus answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.""*

Matthew 6:31-33 *Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*

John 6:35 *Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.*

II Corinthians 9:8-10 *And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.⁹ As it is written,
"He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."*

¹⁰ *He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.*

I Timothy 6:6-8 *Godliness with contentment is great gain,⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.⁸ But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.*

Heidelberg Catechism

What does the request “give us our daily bread” mean?

Our Father in heaven, do take care of all our physical needs so that we come to know that you are the only source of everything good, and that neither our work and worry nor your gifts can do us any good without your blessing. And so help us to give up our trust in creatures and to put our trust in you alone. Amen (Q/A 125)

Song

Psalms 59:16 *But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.*

We Plow the Fields and Scatter

We plow the fields and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by God’s almighty hand.
God sends the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes, and the sunshine,
and soft refreshing rain.

Refrain: All good gifts around us are sent from heav’n above.
We thank you, God, we thank you, God, for all your love.

You only are the Maker
of all things near and far.
You paint the wayside flower,
you light the evening star.
The winds and waves obey you,
by you the birds are fed;
much more to us, your children,
you give our daily bread. *Refrain*

We thank you, then, Creator,
for all things bright and good,
the seed-time, and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food.
Accept the gifts we offer
for all your love imparts,
and what you most would welcome:
our humble, thankful hearts. *Refrain*

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Prayer

II Chronicles 7:14 *If my people, who are called by my Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

You, O God, who have appointed us to seek first the kingdom of God and its righteousness, have promised that if we do so, other things will be added to us. And therefore, having prayed for the sanctifying of your name, the coming of your kingdom, and the doing of your will, we next pray, Father in heaven, give us this day, and each day, our daily bread.

Lord, we do not ask for delicacies, for they are deceptive food, nor do we pray that we may feast sumptuously every day, but we pray for that bread which is necessary to strengthen man's heart. We desire not to eat the bread of deceit, nor to drink any stolen water, nor would we eat the bread of idleness, but that if it be your will we may eat the fruit of the labor of our own hands, that we may do our work quietly and eat our own bread; and having food and clothing, grant us to be content with these, and to say, "We have received full payment, and more."

Bless, O LORD, our substance and accept the work of our hands; and give us wherewithal to provide for our own, even for the members of our own household, and to leave an inheritance, as far as is just, to our children's children. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands! Bless, Lord, our land with the best gifts of the earth and its fullness.

Father, we ask not for bread for a great while to come, but that we may have this day our daily bread; for we would learn (please, Lord, teach us) not to be anxious for tomorrow, what we shall eat, or what we shall drink, or what we shall wear, but we cast the care upon you, our heavenly Father, who knows that we need all these things; who feeds the birds of the air, though they neither sow nor reap, and will much more feed us, who are of more value than many sparrows.

We do not pray for daily bread for ourselves only but for others also: O satisfy your poor with bread, let their bread be given them, and let their water be sure.

(from Matthew Henry's Method for Prayer)