

"THE LORD'S PRAYER REVISITED."

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First Christian Reformed Church, Lynden, WA

March 10, 2024, 6:00 pm

Text for Sermon: Matthew 6:6-13

Introduction.

Prayer is a strange task. On the one hand, it should be so easy. It requires no special equipment, you don't have to be in any special place at any special time. You don't have to do it at a specified time of day. You don't have to have another person to do it with, you don't have to get in any special position, you don't have to talk out loud. You don't have to go to school or receive any special training. It is not something only certain specially trained people can do.

So why is prayer so challenging, so difficult? Why do all of us struggle with our prayer life? Why does it seem like God is so hard to talk too? And why are we especially self-conscious when we pray with others?

Prayer is hard work, sometimes the hardest work, we do.

It is a battle fought on three fronts, the world, the flesh, the devil.

First, it is spiritual warfare, it is engaging in a great cosmic battle and Satan resists all prayer all the time. It really is against principalities and powers in the heavenly places.

Second, it is battle with the world, our world all around us creating so many distractions, so many interruptions. The busyness of our schedules pushes prayer to the far corners of our life.

Third, it is a battle with our own flesh, with our own laziness, sloth, lack of self-discipline and self-control. It is a battle with our doubts and lack of faith, a battle against our lukewarmness, our faintheartedness, our unworthiness. Our own souls are empty, cold, spiritually dry ground.

Prayer is the greatest and most important work we ever do, and it ought to be the first work we do every day. Jesus teaches us and calls us to daily offer up to God praise, adoration, confession, repentance, and thanksgiving and then supplications and intercession, all in reliance on the Holy Spirit.

And as we have been learning, Jesus is the model teacher giving us the model prayer. One excellent place to start is to take each petition of the Lord's Prayer and add to it, expand on it, dilate it, praying the petitions for yourself and for others and for your church.

I am going to do that this evening. I am going to expand each petition using just Scripture, just praying the Word of God back to God. Every word of this prayer is taken from 220 OT or NT verses. This is sort of a doubly inspired prayer, a prayer based on the Lord's Prayer using only God's Words. I invite you to pray with me. You can do this either with your eyes open or closed, whatever way enables you to follow along and stay focused.

This prayer is the master prayer from the Master Prayer. Let us not neglect so great a gift.

Praying the Lord's Prayer

Matthew Henry

Our Father who art in heaven.

O Lord our God, doubtless you are our Father (*Isaiah 63:16*) and we will from this time call to you,

“Our Father, you are the friend of our youth” (*Jeremiah 3:4*).

Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us (*Malachi 2:10*)? You are the Father of our spirits, to whom we ought to be subject to and live (*Hebrews 12:9*).

You are the Father of lights (*James 1:17*), the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort (*II Corinthians 1:3*): the Everlasting Father (*Isaiah 9:6*), from whom and through whom and to whom are all things (*Romans 11:36*).

You are the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (*Ephesians 1:3*), whose glory was that of the only Son from the Father (*John 1:14*), who is at your side (*John 1:18*).

You are, in Christ, our Father and the Father of all believers, whom you have predestined for adoption as sons (*Ephesians 1:5*), and into whose hearts you have sent the Spirit of the Son, teaching them to cry, “Abba! Father” (*Galatians 4:6*)! See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God (*1 John 3:1*)! That the Lord God Almighty should be a Father to us, and we should be sons and daughters to him (*II Corinthians 6:18*); and that to all who receive him, who believe in his name, you should give the right to become children of God, who are born, not of the will of man, but of God and his grace (*John 1:12-13*). O that we may receive adoption as sons (*Galatians 4:5*), and that as obedient and genuine children we may be conformed to the example of

him who has called us, who is holy (*1 Peter 1:14-15*); and may we be imitators of God as beloved children (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Enable us to come to you with humble boldness and confidence (*Ephesians 3:12*), as to a Father, a tender Father, who spares us as a man spares his son who serves him (*Malachi 3:17*); and as having an Advocate with the Father (*1 John 2:1*), who has told us that the Father himself loves us (*John 16:27*).

You are a Father, and if earthly parents, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to their children, how much more will our heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him (*Luke 11:13*)! Lord, give us the Spirit of grace and pleas for mercy (*Zechariah 12:10*).

You are our Father in heaven (*Matthew 6:9*), and therefore to you, O Lord, do we lift up our souls (*Psalms 86:4*). To you we lift up our eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens (*Psalms 123:1-2*)! God whom heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain (*1 Kings 8:27*). Since heaven is our Father's house (*John 14:2*), may we have our citizenship there (*Philippians 3:20*), and seek the things that are above (*Colossians 3:1*).

Hallowed by thy name.

What is our wish? What is our request (*Esther 5:6*)? What do we want you to do for us (*Matthew 20:32*)? This is our heart's desire and prayer in the first place (*Romans 10:1*): Father in heaven, let your name be sanctified. We pray that you may be glorified as a holy God (*Leviticus 10:3*).

We desire to exalt the LORD our God, to worship at his footstool (*Psalms 99:5*), at his holy mountain; to praise his great and awesome name (*Psalms 99:3*).

We glory in your holy name (and therefore shall our hearts rejoice) (*Psalms 105:3*), because we have trusted in your holy name (*Psalms 33:21*), to which we will always give thanks, and glory in your praise (*Psalms 106:47*).

Lord, enable us to glorify your holy name forever, by giving thanks to you with our whole heart (*Psalms 86:12*), and by bearing much fruit, for by this is our heavenly Father glorified (*John 15:8*). O that we might be for God a name, a praise, and a glory (*Jeremiah 13:11*). O that we may be your children, the work of your hands, that we may sanctify your name and sanctify the Holy One of Jacob and stand in awe of the God of Israel (*Isaiah 29:23*); and that we may be to the praise of his glory (*Ephesians 1:12*).

Lord, enable others to glorify you, even strong peoples to glorify you and cities of ruthless nations to fear you (*Isaiah 25:3*); Let all the nations you have made come and

worship before you, O Lord, and glorify your name. For you are great and do wondrous things, you alone are God (*Psalm 86:9-10*). Let the Gentiles glorify God for his mercy, let his name be known among the Gentiles, and let them rejoice with his people (*Romans 15:9-10*). O let your name be great among the nations (*Malachi 1:11*). Vindicate the holiness of your great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and let them know that you are the LORD, when through us you vindicate your holiness before their eyes (*Ezekiel 36:23*).

Father, glorify your own name: you have glorified it, glorify it yet again (*John 12:28*). Father, glorify your Son that your Son also may glorify you (*John 17:1*). Bestow on him the name that is above every name (*Philippians 2:9*), and in all places and in everything let him be preeminent (*Colossians 1:18*). Let your name be magnified forever, saying, ‘The Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, is Israel’s God’ (*1 Chronicles 17:24*).

Your Kingdom Come

In order to the sanctifying and glorifying of your holy name, Father in heaven, let your kingdom come; for yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all (*1 Chronicles 29:11-12*). And we desire to speak of the glory of your kingdom (*Psalm 145:11*), for it is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations (*Psalm 145:13*).

You rule by your might forever; your eyes keep watch on the nations. O let not the rebellious exalt themselves (*Psalm 66:7*), but through the greatness of your power let your enemies come cringing to you (*Psalm 66:3*). Make it to appear that kingship belongs to you, and that you rule over the nations (*Psalm 22:28*); make it so evident that they may say among the nations, “The Lord reigns” (*Psalm 96:10*); that all mankind may fear and may tell what God has brought about (*Psalm 64:9*), and may say, “Surely there is a God who judges on earth” (*Psalm 58:11*). Make all the kings of the earth to know that Heaven rules, even that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will (*Daniel 4:25-26*), and to praise and extol and honor the King of heaven; for all your works are right and your ways are just, and those who walk in pride you are able to humble (*Daniel 4:37*).

Let the kingdom of your grace be like leaven in the world, diffusing its relish, till it is all leavened, and like a grain of mustard seed, which, though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it has grown, is the greatest among all the garden plants (*Matthew 13:31-33*). Let the kingdom of the world become the kingdom of the Lord and of his Christ (*Revelation 11:15*).

Take your great power and reign, though the nations rage (*Revelation 11:17-18*). Set up your throne where Satan's throne is (*Revelation 2:13*), let every thought be taken captive to obey you (*II Corinthians 10:5*), and let the law of your kingdom be magnified and made glorious (*Isaiah 42:21*). O give to the Son of man dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages may serve him (*Daniel 7:14*). Let the kingdom of your grace come more and more in our land and the places where we live.

There let the word of God speed ahead and be honored (*II Thessalonians 3:1*).

Let the kingdom of your grace come into our hearts, that they may be temples of the Holy Spirit (*I Corinthians 6:19*). Let no iniquity get dominion over us (*Psalms 119:133*). Rule in us by the power of truth, that, being of the truth, we may always hear Christ's voice (*John 18:37*), and may not only call him 'Lord, Lord,' but do what he tells us (*Luke 6:46*). And let the love of Christ command us and control us (*II Corinthians 5:14*), and the fear of him be before our eyes, that we may not sin (*Exodus 20:20*).

Let the kingdom of your glory be hastened; we believe it will come. We look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus (*Philippians 3:20*), to come on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory (*Matthew 24:30*). We hope that he shall appear to our joy (*Isaiah 66:5*); we love his appearing; we are waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God (*II Peter 3:12*); make us ready for it (*Matthew 24:44*).

Blessed Jesus, be with your ministers and people as you have said, "Always, to the end of the age" (*Matthew 28:20*). And then, as you have said, "Surely I am coming soon." Come, Lord Jesus! Come quickly (*Revelation 22:20*)!

Your Will Be Done

As an evidence that your kingdom comes, and in order to the sanctifying of your name, Father in heaven, let your holy will be done. We know, O LORD, that whatever you please, that you do in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps (*Psalms 135:6*); your counsel shall stand, and you will accomplish all your purpose (*Isaiah 46:10*): Even so let it be, Holy Father, not our will, but yours, be done (*Luke 22:42*). As you have planned, so let it be, and as you have purposed, so let it stand (*Isaiah 14:24*). Do all according to the counsel of your will (*Ephesians 1:11*). Make even those to serve your purposes who have not known you, and who do not so intend, nor do their hearts so think (*Isaiah 10:7*).

Father, let your will be done concerning us and ours (*I Samuel 3:12*): Behold, here we are; it is the LORD, let him do to us what seems good to him (*I Samuel 3:18*); let the will of the Lord be done (*Acts 21:14*). Give us to submit to your will in conformity to the example of the Lord Jesus who said, "Not as I will, but as you will" (*Matthew 26:39*);

and to say, “The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD (*Job 1:21*).

Lord, give grace to each of us to know and do the will of our Father in heaven (*Matthew 12:50*). This is the will of God, our sanctification (*1 Thessalonians 4:3*). Now may the God of peace sanctify us completely (*1 Thessalonians 5:23*). Let us be filled with the knowledge of your will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding (*Colossians 1:9*), and equip us with everything good that we may do your will (*Hebrews 13:21*). Let the time that is past suffice for doing what the flesh wants to do (*1 Peter 4:3*), and to have walked according to the course of this world (*Ephesians 2:2*). And from henceforth, grant that it may always be our food and drink to do the will of our Father and to accomplish his work (*John 4:34*); not to do our own will but his who sent us (*John 6:38*), that we may be of those who will enter the kingdom of heaven (*Matthew 7:21*).

Lord, give grace to others also to know and do your will; to discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect (*Romans 12:2*); not to be foolish, but to understand what the will of the Lord is (*Ephesians 5:17*); and then give them to stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God (*Colossians 4:12*): And let us all serve our generations according to that will (*Acts 13:36*).

We rejoice that your will is done in heaven; that the holy angels do your word and always obey the voice of your word (*Psalms 103:20*); that they always see the face of our Father (*Matthew 18:10*). And we lament that your will is so little done on earth, so many of the children of men being captured by Satan to do his will (*II Timothy 2:26*). O that this earth may be made more like heaven! And saints more like the holy angels! And that we who hope to be shortly like angels in heaven (*Matthew 22:30*), may now, like them, never cease from praising him (*Revelation 4:8*); may now, like them, resist and withstand Satan (*Daniel 10:13*).

Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread

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 (*Matthew 6:33*): 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 (*Luke 11:3*). We pray for that bread which is necessary to strengthen man’s heart (*Psalms 104:15*). We desire not to eat the bread of deceit (*Proverbs 20:17*), nor to drink any stolen water (*Proverbs 9:17*), nor would we eat the bread of idleness (*Proverbs 31:27*), but that if it be your will we may eat the fruit of the labor of our own hands (*Psalms 128:2*), that we may do our work quietly and eat our own bread (*II Thessalonians 3:12*); and having food and clothing, grant us to be content with

these (*1 Timothy 6:8*), and to say, “We have received full payment, and more” (*Philippians 4:18*).

Bless, O LORD, our substance and accept the work of our hands (*Deuteronomy 33:11*); and give us wherewithal to provide for our own, even for the members of our own household (*1 Timothy 5:8*). 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 (*Psalms 90:17*)!

But if the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; if the produce of the olive should fail, and the fields yield no food; if the flock should be cut off from the fold, and there should be no herd in the stalls, yet let us have grace to rejoice in the LORD and to take joy in the God of our salvation (*Habakkuk 3:17-18*).

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 (*Matthew 6:31-32*); who feeds the birds of the air, though they neither sow nor reap, and will much more feed us (*Matthew 6:26*), who are of more value than many sparrows (*Matthew 10:31*).

We do not pray for daily bread for ourselves only but for others also: O satisfy your poor with bread (*Psalms 132:15*). Let all who walk righteously and speak uprightly dwell on the heights: Let the place of their defense be the fortresses of rocks, let their bread be given them, and let their water be sure (*Isaiah 33:15-16*).

Forgive us Our Debts

Lord, as we pray every day for our daily bread, we pray for the forgiveness of our sins; for we are all held accountable to God (*Romans 3:19*), have all sinned and fall short of the glory of God (*Romans 3:23*). We all stumble in many ways every day (*James 3:2*). Who can tell how often he stumbles (*Psalms 19:12*)? If you should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared (*Psalms 130:3-4*). God, be merciful to us sinners (*Luke 18:13*)!

We have wasted our Lord's possessions (*Luke 16:1*); we have buried the talents we were entrusted with (*Matthew 25:18*). We have not made return according to the benefit done to us (*II Chronicles 32:25*); and thus, we have come to be in debt. The Scripture has concluded us all under sin (*Galatians 3:22*); we have practiced such things as deserve death (*Romans 1:32*), things for which the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience (*Ephesians 5:6*). Our debt is more than ten thousand talents; it is a great debt, and we cannot pay (*Matthew 18:24-26*).

But blessed be God, there is a way found out; for if anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, and he is the propitiation for our sins (*1 John 2:1-2*). For his sake, we entreat you, blot out all our transgressions (*Psalms 51:1*), and enter not into judgment with us (*Psalms 143:2*). Let the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands be cancelled and set aside, being nailed to the cross of Christ, that we may be made alive together with Christ, having all our trespasses forgiven us (*Colossians 2:13-14*). Be merciful toward our iniquities and remember our sins no more (*Hebrews 8:12*).

Give us, we beg you, to receive reconciliation (*Romans 5:11*); to know that our sins are forgiven us (*1 John 2:12*). Speak peace to us (*Psalms 85:8*), and let us hear joy and gladness (*Psalms 51:8*). Let the blood of Jesus your Son cleanse us from all sin (*1 John 1:7*), and purify our consciences from dead works to serve the living God (*Hebrews 9:14*).

As We Also Forgive Our Debtors

As an evidence that you have forgiven our sins, we plead with you, give us grace to forgive our enemies, to love those who hate us and bless those who curse us (*Matthew 5:44*); for we acknowledge that if we do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will our Father forgive our trespasses (*Matthew 6:15*). And therefore we forgive, Lord; we desire heartily to forgive, if we have a complaint against another, as the Lord has forgiven us (*Colossians 3:13*). Far be it from us to say that we will repay evil (*Proverbs 20:22*), or that we should avenge ourselves (*Romans 12:19*); but we pray that all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander may be put away from us, along with all malice; and that we may be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave us (*Ephesians 4:31-32*). Make us merciful, even as our Father who is in heaven is merciful (*Luke 6:36*), who has promised that with the merciful he shows himself merciful (*Psalms 18:25*).

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil

Lord, forasmuch as there is in us a bent to turn away from you (*Hosea 11:7*), so that when our sins are forgiven, we are ready to turn back to folly (*Psalms 85:8*), we pray that you will not only forgive us our debts but take care of us, that we may not offend anymore (*Job 34:32*). Lord, lead us not into temptation. We know that no one can say when he is tempted that he is being tempted by God, for God himself tempts no one (*James 1:13*); but we know that God is able to make all grace abound to us (*II Corinthians 9:8*), and to keep us from stumbling and present us blameless (*Jude 1:2*). We therefore pray that you will never give us over to our own stubborn hearts, to follow our own counsels (*Psalms 81:12*), but restrain Satan, that roaring lion who goes about seeking someone to devour (*1 Peter 5:8*); and grant that we may not be ignorant of his designs (*II Corinthians 2:11*). Let not Satan have us, to sift us like wheat; or however, let

our faith not fail (*Luke 22:31-32*). Let not the messengers of Satan be permitted to harass us (*II Corinthians 12:7*); but if they do, let your grace be sufficient for us, that where we are weak, there we may be strong (*II Corinthians 12:9-10*), and may be more than conquerors through him who loved us (*Romans 8:37*). And since we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against rulers and authorities and the cosmic powers over this present darkness (*Ephesians 6:12*), let us be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might (*Ephesians 6:10*).

Lord, grant that we may never enter into temptation (*Matthew 26:41*), but having prayed, may we set a guard (*Nehemiah 4:9*); and let your wise and good providence so order all our affairs and all events that concern us, that no temptation may overtake us that is not common to man, and that we may never be tempted beyond our ability to discern, resist, and overcome through the grace of God (*I Corinthians 10:13*). Lord, do not lay any stumbling block before us, so that we should stumble and perish (*Jeremiah 6:21*). Let nothing be a hindrance in our way (*Romans 14:13*), but give us that great peace which they have who love your law, for nothing can make them stumble (*Psalms 119:165*).

And lead us, we entreat you, into all the truth (*John 16:13*); lead us in your truth and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation. Make us to know your ways, O God, and teach us your paths (*Psalms 25:4-5*), the paths of righteousness; O lead us in those paths for your name's sake, so that we may be led beside still waters (*Psalms 23:2-3*).

And deliver us, we plead with you, from the evil one; protect us, that the evil one does not touch us (*I John 5:18*), that he does not sow his weeds in the field of our hearts (*Matthew 13:25*), that we will not be ensnared by his schemes (*Ephesians 6:11*), or wounded by his flaming darts (*Ephesians 6:16*); let the word of God abide in us, that we may be strong and may overcome the evil one (*I John 2:14*).

Deliver us from every evil thing, we pray, that we may do no wrong (*II Corinthians 13:7*); Rescue us from every evil deed (*II Timothy 4:18*); save us from our sins (*Matthew 1:21*); redeem us from all lawlessness (*Titus 2:14*), especially the sin which clings so closely (*Hebrews 12:1*). Put false ways far from us (*Psalms 119:29*): But especially keep back your servants from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over us (*Psalms 19:13*)!

Preserve us, we beg you, that no evil thing may be allowed to befall us (*Psalms 91:10*); and keep us from evil, that it may not hurt us (*Psalms 121:7*). O Savior of those who seek refuge from their adversaries at your right hand, wondrously show us your steadfast love, and keep us as the apple of your eye; hide us in the shadow of your wings (*Psalms 17:7-8*). Guard what has been entrusted to you (*II Timothy 1:12*). You who have delivered, please deliver; and, we hope and pray, that you will deliver us again (*II Corinthians*

1:10), will deliver us from all our fears (*Psalm 34:4*). O make us to dwell secure and grant that we may be at ease, without dread of disaster (*Proverbs 1:33*). And bring us safe at last to your holy mountain, where there is no more a briar to prick or a thorn to hurt (*Ezekiel 28:24*). nothing to hurt or destroy (*Isaiah 11:9*).

For Yours is the Kingdom ...

We desire in all our prayers to praise you, for you are great and greatly to be praised (*Psalm 145:3*).

We praise your kingdom, for it is an everlasting kingdom and endures throughout all generations (*Psalm 145:13*), and the scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness. You love righteousness and hate wickedness (*Psalm 45:6-7*). To you belongs steadfast love, and you will render to a man according to his works (*Psalm 62:12*).

We praise your power, for you have a mighty arm; strong is your hand, high is your right hand, and yet righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you (*Psalm 89:13-14*). We praise your glory; may the glory of the LORD endure forever (*Psalm 104:31*). O let God be praised in his sanctuary and praised in his mighty heavens! Let him be praised for his mighty deeds and praised according to his excellent greatness (*Psalm 150:1-2*)! Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Hallelujah (*Psalm 150:6*)!

We know that he hears us in whatever we ask, according to his will, in faith we have the requests that we have asked of him (*1 John 5:15*), and we will glory in his praise (*Psalm 106:47*). Now we know that the Lord hears his Anointed and for his sake will answer us from his holy heaven with the saving might of his right hand (*Psalm 20:6*): And therefore, in token not only of our desire but of our assurance to be heard in Christ's name, we say, Amen, Amen.