

PRAYER SERVICE 3
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Midlothian, Virginia
July 26, 2011, 7:00 pm

“LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY “

(Luke 11:1-13 & Matthew 6:5-13 with explanations from Luther's Catechism)

This evening we come as beloved children of our heavenly Father to offer our prayers and praise. We use the Lord's Prayer to frame our time of prayer. Following each petition and Luther's explanation, we offer our prayers. Let each petition guide you into prayer. (**bold** = congregation)

OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN

In the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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.

We begin our time of prayer with songs of PRAISE.

PRAISE SONGS

HALLOWED BE THY NAME

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!

We take this moment to speak aloud our favorite NAMES for God. (Offer up these names)

REFRAIN (to be chanted at the end of each time of prayer)

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer;
When I call answer me, O Lord, hear my prayer;
O Lord, hear my prayer: Come and listen to me.

THY 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.

(John 18:36; 3:3; Luke 10:1-12; 17:20-21; Mark 12:28-34)

We pray that the Holy Spirit might fill us with energy to LIVE according to God's will and to REACH OUT to those who don't know Jesus. (Offer your petitions accordingly)

REFRAIN O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer;

When I call answer me, O Lord, hear my prayer;
O Lord, hear my prayer: Come and listen to me.



THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

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 pray that we might know GOD'S WILL for us and our congregation and be willing to let go and submit to it.
(Offer your petitions accordingly)

REFRAIN O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer;
When I call answer me, O Lord, hear my prayer;
O Lord, hear my prayer: Come and listen to me.

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD

Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, 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 neighbors, and the like.

We humbly bring our gratitude and PETITIONS to our loving Father.
(Offer your petitions accordingly. This may include prayers for healing, comfort, strength, and the unity of our congregation.)

REFRAIN O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer;
When I call answer me, O Lord, hear my prayer;
O Lord, hear my prayer: Come and listen to me.

FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US

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.

(Time of Confession) Living God, Who conquered sin, death, and the devil in the resurrection of Your Son, lift our thoughts toward the risen Christ. May Your Word confront us when we think we are in control, comfort us when we are anxious, bring peace to us when our world is turned upside down, and give us joy when we are burdened with sorrow. So we confess:

Where I am guilty, assure me of forgiveness. Where I am anxious, calm my spirit with Your presence. Where I am weak in faith, enliven me by the power of Your Holy Spirit. Where I have been unwilling to forgive, help me to let go of resentment and to offer forgiveness.

(Time for silent and personal confession)

God forgives the sins of all who repent and entrust their lives to Him. In the name of Jesus and by His command, I offer you of God's abiding forgiveness. In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION

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.

We pray that God might empower us as we do BATTLE with the devil, world, and our own desires to disobey Him. (Offer your petitions accordingly)

REFRAIN O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer;
When I call answer me, O Lord, hear my prayer;
O Lord, hear my prayer: Come and listen to me.

BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL (or "THE EVIL ONE")

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.

We pray for God's protection. (Offer your petitions accordingly)

REFRAIN O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer;
When I call answer me, O Lord, hear my prayer;
O Lord, hear my prayer: Come and listen to me.

FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM AND THE POWER AND THE GLORY FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN.

(I Chronicles 29:11-13)

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

Having come to the throne of grace we joyfully conclude with our songs of PRAISE.

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