

Didache Divine Service

Session 13

Wednesday, January 3, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

The Lord's Prayer: Introduction through the Third Petition

I. Invocation and Prayer

II. Hymn: 773 "Hear Us, Father, When We Pray"

III. Bible Reading: Jesus Prays in the Garden of Gethsemane: Mark 14:32-42

They came to a place which was named Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, "Sit here while I pray." ³³ And He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and He began to be troubled and deeply distressed. ³⁴ Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, *even* to death. Stay here and watch."

³⁵ He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. ³⁶ And He said, "Abba, Father, all things *are* possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You *will*."

³⁷ Then He came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "Simon, are you sleeping? Could you not watch one hour? ³⁸ Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak."

³⁹ Again He went away and prayed, and spoke the same words. ⁴⁰ And when He returned, He found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy; and they did not know what to answer Him.

⁴¹ Then He came the third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? It is enough! The hour has come; behold, the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴² Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand."

1. What was Jesus' experiencing when He went to Gethsemane to pray?
2. How did He address His Father?
3. What did He pray for?
4. What does He teach us by praying, "Not what I will, but what You will"?
5. What does He teach us by fervently repeating the same prayer?
6. What does Jesus identify in the disciples which is also common to us?
7. The Father did not take away Jesus' suffering, what do we learn from this?
8. How did the Father answer Jesus' prayer, and what do we learn from this?

IV. **The Lord's Prayer Teaches Us What Prayer Is:**

1. **God's Word is the foundation for prayer.** Jesus gives us the words to pray. Every petition of the Lord's Prayer is FIRST a promise of God to us, then it becomes our prayer to God. We speak back to God what He speaks to us.
2. **Prayer is the voice of faith that claims the promises of God's Word.** God's Word reflects God's will for us. Therefore, the primary focus for us as believers is to cry out to God to give us the very things that He Himself promises us and desires for us. (All too often Christians perceive of prayer as asking God for what WE want rather than what He wants for us and knows is best for us.) In prayer, the Christian desires that God make HIS will OUR will, rather than the other way around.
3. **God's Word is what gives certainty to prayer.** When we pray "according to God's Word" we have the ABSOLUTE promise that He hears and answers us.
4. **Our baptism gives us the rights and privileges of a child:** to call upon God "as dear children call upon their dear father" (Small Catechism Introduction)
5. **Our prayers are heard for Christ's sake, not because of our merit or worthiness.** As baptized children of God we have access to God through the merits of Jesus' death for our sins. Therefore, our heavenly Father never turns away His child who comes to Him through faith in Jesus. This is the meaning of "through Jesus Christ, our Lord" which so often concludes Christian prayer.

V. **The Small Catechisms Explanation to the Lord's Prayer: LSB p. 323 ff.**

The Introduction is Baptismal: "Our Father who art in heaven..."

We are invited to believe that we are the children of God through Christ.

The First Petition: "Hallowed be Thy Name..."

We are taught that God's name is kept holy when we teach and live according to God's Word.

The Second Petition: "Thy kingdom come..."

We are taught that the Holy Spirit creates faith in our hearts by the Word of God.

The Third Petition: "Thy will be done..."

We are taught that it is God's will to preserve us in His Word and faith until we die.

"...on earth as it is in heaven" belongs to each of the first three petitions.

We are taught that prayer is the voice of faith in which we are asking to be aligned with God's will.

VI. **Hymn: 766 "Our Father, Who from Heaven Above"** (Stanzas 1-4)

VII. **Liturgy for Holy Communion** (Peach handout)

VIII. **Hymn to Depart: 883 "All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night"**