

**Didache Divine Service**  
**Session 13—The Lord’s Prayer**  
6:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 8, 2023

1. Invocation and Prayer
2. Hymn: LSB 766 “Our Father, Who from Heaven Above” Stanzas 1-5

**3. Bible Reading: Jesus Teaches His Disciples to Pray—Luke 11:1-4 (Part 1)**

Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, *that* one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.”

<sup>2</sup>So He said to them, “When you pray, say:

Our<sup>[a]</sup> Father <sup>[b]</sup>in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come.

<sup>[c]</sup>Your will be done

On earth as *it is* in heaven.

<sup>3</sup>Give us day by day our daily bread.

<sup>4</sup>And forgive us our sins,

For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

And do not lead us into temptation,

But deliver us from the evil one.”

**On the basis of the gift of the Lord’s Prayer in Luke 11:1-4**

- The disciples began to learn how to pray by observing Jesus at prayer.
- The words and patterns of prayer are handed down to us “as John also taught His disciples to pray.” There is both “individual” and “corporate prayer” (including marital prayer, familial prayer, and congregational prayer).
- Five Foundational Truths Regarding Christian Prayer:
  - i. **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.
  - ii. **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.
  - iii. **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.
  - iv. **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)

- v. **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.

4. **Bible Reading: Jesus Teaches His Disciples to Pray—Luke 11:5-13 (Part 2)**

And He said to them, "Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; <sup>6</sup> for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; <sup>7</sup> and he will answer from within and say, 'Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you'? <sup>8</sup> I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs.

<sup>9</sup> "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. <sup>11</sup> If a son asks for <sup>le</sup>bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if *he* asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? <sup>12</sup> Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? <sup>13</sup> If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

**Discussion Questions on verses 5-13 The Friend at Midnight**

- Why does the friend get out of bed to give bread to his midnight caller?
- Is this what motivates God?
- Why does our heavenly Father hear and answer our prayers?
- Are these promises of Jesus in verses 9 and 10 absolute?
- Does God promise to give us anything that is bad for us?
- What is the ultimate "good thing"?  
The promise of the gift of the Holy Spirit and faith (verse 13)

5. Hymn: LSB 766 "Our Father, Who from Heaven Above" Stanzas 6-9

6. Holy Communion Liturgy

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