

Didache Divine Service
Session 14—The Lord's Prayer
6:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 15, 2023

1. Invocation and Prayer

2. Hymn: LSB 766 "Our Father, Who from Heaven Above" Stanzas 1-5

3. Catechism: Lord's Prayer, LSB p. 323ff.

- "Our Father...": Baptized Children call upon their heavenly Father
- "Hallowed be Thy Name": The Word of God in preaching and life
- "Thy Kingdom Come": The gift of the Holy Spirit and faith in Christ
- "Thy will be done...": God's will is to defend us against devil, world, flesh
- "Daily bread...": Faith to trust Him for all we need
- "Forgive us...": We live from Christ's forgiveness in life together
- "Lead us not into temptation...": escape from false belief, despair, shame
- "But deliver us from evil...": rescue from every evil
- "Amen": Yes, yes, it is so because God has promised

4. Bible Reading: The Canaanite Woman Prays—Matthew 15:21-28

Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. ²² And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed."

²³ But He answered her not a word.

And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us."

²⁴ But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

²⁵ Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!"

²⁶ But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw *it* to the little dogs."

²⁷ And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table."

²⁸ Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great *is* your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

• Review: Five Foundational Truths Regarding Christian Prayer:

- 1) God's Word is the foundation for prayer.
- 2) Prayer is the voice of faith that claims the promises of God's Word.
- 3) God's Word is what gives certainty to prayer.
- 4) Our baptism gives us the rights and privileges of a child.
- 5) Our prayers are heard for Christ's sake, not because of our merit or worthiness.

- The Canaanite Woman prayed to Jesus for mercy. Her daughter was demon possessed. She believed Jesus to be the Son of God and the Savior of the children of Israel and the nations (the Gentiles).
- In the narrative everyone seems to be against her, even Jesus Himself.
- She trusted in the Old Testament promise of the Gospel that salvation was for all sinners: "In your Seed, Abraham, ALL the nations of the earth would be blessed."
- In her prayer to Jesus, she was undeterred by negative experiences or voices that seemed to speak against her faith, but rather trusted exclusively in the promise of the Gospel of God's grace and salvation for all sinners in Jesus.
- She believed she was "an unworthy, Gentile dog," a sinner, and yet, according to the promise of the Gospel, Christ came for the unworthy to save her and her daughter from sin, death, and Satan's power.
- Jesus puts her to the test, not because He did not know her faith, but to reveal the nature of true faith to us. We are called, not to rely upon our experiences, but upon the gracious promises of God in Christ.
- "Her faith was great" because Jesus alone was the object of her faith.
- It is in this faith in Christ and His Word alone by which we approach God in prayer. This is why "prayer" is referred to as "the voice of faith that claims the promises of God's Word."

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

6. Holy Communion Liturgy

7. Hymn to Depart: 884 "Lord, Support Us All Day Long"