

Didache Divine Service
Session 18—The Lord's Prayer

8:30, 2:30, and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 15, 2023

1. **Divine Service, Setting 4 Liturgy, LSB p. 203ff.**
2. **Catechetical Sermon on the Lord's Prayer: 6th and 7th Petitions and "Amen"
Jesus Celebrates the Passover, Matthew 26:36-56**

What is the Sixth Petition? And lead us not into temptation.

What does this mean?

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.

What is the Seventh Petition? But deliver us from evil.

What does this mean?

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.

What is meant by the word "Amen!".

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."

Jesus Prays in the Garden of Gethsemane: Matthew 26:36-56

³⁶ Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there." ³⁷ And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. ³⁸ Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me."

³⁹ He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

⁴⁰ Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour?" ⁴¹ Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." ⁴² Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, "O My Father, ^[n]if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done." ⁴³ And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy.

⁴⁴ So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. ⁴⁵ Then He came to His disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand.”

⁴⁷ And while He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and elders of the people. ⁴⁸ Now His betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him.” ⁴⁹ Immediately he went up to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed Him. ⁵⁰ But Jesus said to him, “Friend, why have you come?” Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him. ⁵¹ And suddenly, one of those *who were* with Jesus stretched out *his* hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear. ⁵² But Jesus said to him, “Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will [Ⓜ]perish by the sword. ⁵³ Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴ How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?” ⁵⁵ In that hour Jesus said to the multitudes, “Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I sat daily with you, teaching in the temple, and you did not seize Me. ⁵⁶ But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled.

We learn much from Jesus about prayer from His prayer in the Garden. If prayer is the voice of faith that trusts in God, even when it feels as if we are forsaken by God, then Jesus is the man of faith. In His prayer, He cries out to His Father and entrusts Himself to His Father’s will. He believes His Father’s will is good, even though it will mean the most horrific suffering for Him. Because He loved the Father, He rightly desired to remain in the full communion of His Father’s love. So He rightly prays, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.” To believe that God’s will is good, and right, and full of love and salvation for us, even if it calls us to suffer and die—that is faith. Prayer is the voice of this faith that asks God to preserve us in His faith and love, even though we only experience the sorrow of suffering and death. In His prayer, Jesus rightly desires to remain in communion with His Father, yet willingly yields to the Father’s will to die. “Not as I will, but as You will.” Why did He pray this way? He trusted in His Father, even though every other support in heaven and earth would be taken from Him. He had the Father’s promise. And He held fast to that promise. He knew that the Father’s will was good; it was for the salvation of the world; and He shared His Father’s nature of self-giving love. So He yields to the Father’s will in His prayer, believing the Father’s promise even in the face of the blackness of death and hell and the Father’s wrath.

But while we see the overwhelming sorrow that Jesus was carrying, even to the death of the cross; and though we see Him endure unspeakable pain and suffering. He never wavers in faith and He remained constant in prayer for you. “O My Father, ^[h]if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.” And for a third time He prayed the same words. When Judas arrived with the detachment of troops, Jesus was still carrying the sorrow of His soul, even unto death, but His heart was fully fixed upon the Father’s will. His prayer was heard, and with calm resolve declared, “Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Rise, let us be going.”

To pray, as we always do, “through Jesus Christ, our Lord,” means that though our faith is weak and our prayers so often falter, yet for Jesus’ sake, our prayers are heard. And His grace and faithfulness for us in His prayer is our comfort and our assurance in our prayers. It is only through Jesus’ faithfulness unto death for us and for our salvation, that we learn to pray as He did, “not my will, but thine be done.”