

In the HOUSE *of the* LORD

LESSON #10 – HOMEWORK



The Prayer of the Day

The Prayer of the Day helps worshipers focus on a central theme drawn from the Scripture readings for the day. There is a specific prayer for each Sunday and festival of the church year. Many of these prayers are very ancient and have been used in worship for centuries. In many ways these prayers remind us that our prayers are not ours alone, but they are the prayers of the whole church – past, present and future.

The Prayer of the Church

After confessing their faith, worshipers now approach God with confidence and trust in their prayers. They bring their requests and petitions to the throne of the heavenly Father as symbolized by the altar (Matthew 18:19). Their concern is for all people as they offer their prayers, supplications, and thanksgivings (1 Timothy 2:1-4). Prayer is one of the central activities of God's gathered worshipers.

Sometimes the Prayer of the Church is prayed in responsive form. The pastor makes a petition to the Lord. The congregation responds with their petition. Sometimes the Prayer of the Church is prayed in a collect form. The pastor prays for a series of concerns and the congregation responds at the end with the Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Already early in Christianity, the Lord's Prayer was associated with worship. From the 7th century, the Lord's Prayer (also known as the "Our Father") was said only by the priest. This practice continued in most Reformation era churches. However, in the last few centuries in Germany and North America, the Lord's Prayer was returned to the people.

The Lord's Prayer may be spoken with the traditional wording with the old English. Or it may be spoken with the contemporary language that we use in everyday speech. There are also some very beautiful musical settings of the Lord's Prayer. An example would be the metrical version of the Lord's Prayer in the Compline service of Evening Prayer.

Digging Deeper

Read Psalm 50:9-15. The Lord required the Children of Israel to worship Him with their offerings. But the Lord said that He desired something even more than offerings. What higher form of worship does God ask for? (vv 14-15). Why is prayer a wonderful way of worshiping God?

Read Luke 5:15-16. Jesus often went off on His own to pray. What lesson is there for us in the fact that Jesus, as the Son of God, made it His regular practice to talk to His heavenly Father in prayer?

Read Psalm 138; Luke 18:9-14; Philippians 1:3-6; Philippians 1:9-11. Sadly, too often Christians consider prayer as just a means of asking God for "stuff." Why else do we pray to God? (Hint: ACTS)

What can you learn about prayer from each of these prayers of God's saints?

- Abraham. Read Genesis 18:20-33:
- Jacob. Read Genesis 32:22-30:
- Hannah. Read 1 Samuel 1:1-20:
- Elijah. Read 1 Kings 18:19-46:
- Daniel. Read Daniel 6:6-11:

How does God answer prayer in each of these instances?

- Exodus 9:22-35:
- Ezra 8:21-23:
- Nehemiah 4:1-9:
- Isaiah 38:
- Luke 22:31-34:
- Luke 22:39-46:
- John 11:38-44:

Read the following verses from Luke's gospel. What can we conclude about Jesus' prayer life?

- Luke 3:21:
- Luke 6:12:
- Luke 9:18:
- Luke 9:28:
- Luke 11:1:
- Luke 22:39,40,44:

Read Luke 18:1-8. What is Jesus teaching in His parable of the persistent widow?

Read John 16:22-27. What does it mean to pray "in Jesus' name?"

Read John 17. What does it mean to you that just before He was arrested, tried and crucified, Jesus prayed for you?

Read Romans 8:15-27. Because of our "weakness," what difficulty do we experience in our prayer life? (v26) How does the Holy Spirit help us? (v27)

Read Matthew 26:36-44 and Matthew 6:9-13. Compare Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane with the prayer He taught His disciples. What is similar? What is different?

Make the time to read through the Psalms over the next few weeks. They are excellent examples of prayers. Often, when you don't know what to say in your prayers, the psalmists have already said it in their prayers. Return to the Psalms in any time of crisis, joy or thanksgiving. You will find a Psalm to match your emotion and occasion.

The Bible says that "we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God" (Colossians 1:10). In order for you to fulfill that prayer, it is good for you to do your daily Bible reading.

Daily Bible Reading: Luke 13-18

Memorize the following passage: Matthew 7:7 Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

Digging Even Deeper

In his Large Catechism, Martin Luther explains how parents are to teach their children to pray every morning, evening, and in returning thanks.

The Large Catechism, Daily Prayers

How the head of the family should teach his household to pray morning and evening

Morning Prayer.

1] In the morning, when you rise, you shall bless yourself with the holy cross and say:

In the name of God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

2] Then, kneeling or standing, repeat the Creed and the Lord's Prayer. If you choose, you may, in addition, say this little prayer:

I thank Thee, my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Thy dear Son, that Thou hast kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray Thee to keep me this day also from sin and all evil, that all my doings and life may please Thee. For into Thy hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Thy holy angel be with me, that the Wicked Foe may have no power over me. Amen.

3] Then go to your work with joy, singing a hymn, as the Ten Commandments, or what your devotion may suggest.

Evening Prayer.

4] In the evening, when you go to bed, you shall bless yourself with the holy cross and say:

In the name of God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

5] Then, kneeling or standing, repeat the Creed and the Lord's Prayer. If you choose, you may, in addition, say this little prayer:

I thank Thee, my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Thy dear Son, that Thou hast graciously kept me this day, and I pray Thee to forgive me all my sins, where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Thy hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Thy holy angel be with me, that the Wicked Foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Then go to sleep promptly and cheerfully.

6] How the Head of the Family Should Teach His Household to Ask a Blessing and Return Thanks.

Asking a Blessing

The children and servants shall go to the table with folded hands and reverently, and say:

The eyes of all wait upon Thee, O Lord; and Thou givest them their meat in due season; Thou openest Thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.

To satisfy the desire means that all animals receive so much to eat that they are on this account joyful and of good cheer; for care and avarice hinder such satisfaction.

Then the Lord's Prayer, and the prayer here following:

Lord God, Heavenly Father, bless us and these Thy gifts, which we take from Thy bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Returning Thanks.

Likewise also after the meal they shall reverently and with folded hands say:

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. He giveth food to all flesh; He giveth to the beast his food, and to the young ravens which cry. He delighteth not in the strength of the horse; He taketh not pleasure in the legs of a man. The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear Him, in those that hope in His mercy.

Then the Lord's Prayer and the prayer here following:

We thank Thee, Lord God, Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for all Thy benefits, who livest and reignest forever and ever. Amen.