

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent



Second Sunday In Lent

Lord, teach us how to pray . . .

Let each day begin with prayer,  
praise and adoration.  
On the Lord cast ev'ry care;  
he is your salvation.  
Morning, evening and at night  
Jesus will be near you,  
Save you from the tempter's might,  
with his presence cheer you. LBW #444

*He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray. . ." Luke 11:1*

The "Our Father" or "Lord's Prayer" is probably the best-known of all Christian prayers. This prayer has become a model for Christian prayer. Martin Luther considered it one of the "basics" to be included in his Small Catechism. The early Church gave this prayer to baptismal candidates as their first prayer after baptism. In his commentary on Matthew, Frederick D. Bruner wrote: *as simple Christians in all the churches on all seven continents learn to pray the Lord's Prayer simply, briefly, but ardently, day after day, the Father hears and acts to change the world. The earliest church believed the world was kept from flying into chaos by the prayers of Christians.\** So then, let us pray! This week we will look at the petitions of this prayer through Martin Luther's explanations.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, it is your glory always to have mercy. Bring back all who have erred and strayed from your ways; lead them again to embrace in faith the truth of your Word and to hold it fast; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. *(Prayer of the Day for the Second Sunday in Lent – LBW #26)*

\*Matthew a Commentary vol. 1, p. 295, © 2004 Wm.B. Eerdman Publishing Co.

## Monday

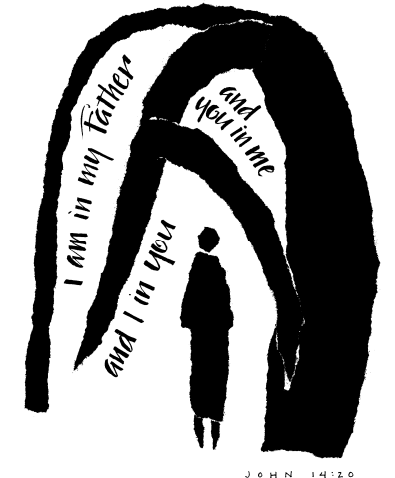
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

O Thou, who hast of thy pure grace  
Made shine on us a Father's face,  
Arise, thy holy name make known,  
Take up thy pow'r and reign alone;  
On earth, in us, let thy sole will  
Be done, as angels do it still.  
LBW #442

*And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a child, and if a child, then also an heir through God. Galatians 4:6-7*

Although we say "Father," the word "Abba" is much more intimate. It has the sense of "Daddy" or "Poppa" rather than the formal address. This is how Jesus addressed his prayer - to One with whom he was intimate, and of whom he was beloved. Martin Luther says that *"With these words God wants to attract us, so that we believe he is truly our Father and we are truly his children, in order that we may ask him boldly and with complete confidence, just as loving children ask their loving father."*

Prayer: Children of the heav'nly Father, safely in his bosom gather,  
Nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge ne'er was given.  
God his own doth tend and nourish, in his holy courts they flourish;  
From all evil things he spares them, in his mighty arms he bears them.  
Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord his children sever,  
Unto them his grace he showeth, and their sorrows all he knoweth.  
Though he giveth or he taketh, God his children ne'er forsaketh;  
His the loving purpose solely to preserve them pure and holy.  
LBW #474



## Tuesday

Thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. . .

Your kingdom come! O Father, hear our prayer;  
Shine through the clouds that threaten ev'rywhere.  
Light from above, our only life and joy,  
Show us the hope that nothing can destroy. LBW #376



*The Lord is king, he is robed in majesty; the Lord is robed,  
he is girded with strength. He has established the world;  
it shall never be moved; your throne is established from of old;  
you are from everlasting. Psalm 93:1-2*

I don't remember many sermons from my youth, but one Christ the King Sunday, the pastor spoke of how America began with the idea that no king had the right to rule us without our consent; how Americans get their hackles up when someone talks about "the divine right of kings." But that we should fall to our knees in gratitude that *God is our King!* God is a king who has nothing but love for us and wants nothing but what is best for us. That's the kind of kingdom we want to live in! Martin Luther writes that *God's kingdom comes without our prayer, but we ask in this prayer that it may also come to us.* It comes when we acknowledge God as King. But how can we do this? By doing God's will on earth — as God's will is done in heaven! It's just that simple, and just that difficult! But the Good News is that God doesn't expect us to do it all! In fact, it is God who makes it possible! *God's will comes about whenever God strengthens us and keeps us steadfast in his Word and in faith until the end of our lives. This is God's good and gracious will.* We are God's children — we call him "Abba"— and he gives us grace and empowers us by his Holy Spirit to do his will so that God's kingdom will indeed come to us and through us!

Prayer:      Stumbling and blind, we strive to do your will,  
Trusting the word you surely will fulfill  
That all are yours, however far they roam,  
That love shall triumph, and your kingdom come.

LBW #376

## Wednesday

Give us this day our daily bread . . .

He only is the maker of all things near and far,  
He paints the wayside flower,  
He lights the ev'ning star.  
The winds and waves obey him,  
By him the birds are fed;  
Much more to us, his children,  
He gives our daily bread.  
All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above,  
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all his love. LBW #362

*You cause grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the human heart, oil to make the face shine, and bread to strengthen the human heart. Psalm 104:14-15*

Daily bread sounds like a boring diet, and it certainly doesn't fit in with the "low-carb" lifestyle! But God's care for us is never boring, and is always a "good fit"! Luther notes that *God gives daily bread without our prayer, even to all evil people* but we pray this prayer because we know the source of this providence and give thanks! But God's care goes far beyond just food. *What then does "daily bread" mean? Everything our bodies need, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, fields, livestock, money, property, an upright spouse,, upright children, upright workers, upright and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, decency, honor, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.* In short, ALL that we need — not simply to exist, but to live and enjoy life! And all this comes out of God's goodness, not our worthiness or deserving. What love!

Prayer:      We thank thee, then, O Father, for all things bright and good,  
The seedtime and the harvest, our life, our health, our food.  
No gift have we to offer for all thy love imparts,  
But that which thou desirest: our humble, thankful hearts.  
All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above;



Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all his love. SBH #364

## Thursday

and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us . . .

"Forgive our sins as we forgive"  
You taught us, Lord, to pray,  
But you alone can grant us grace  
to live the words we say.  
How can your pardon reach and bless  
The unforgiving heart  
That dwells on wrongs  
And will not let old bitterness depart?

LBW #307

*"Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone,  
so that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses."*

Mark 11: 25

This has to be the most difficult of all the petitions because forgiving and allowing ourselves to be forgiven are probably the most difficult things a person can do! But our loving heavenly Father does forgive freely at the plea of a repentant heart. Luther writes: *We ask in this prayer that our heavenly Father would not regard our sins or deny these petitions on their account, for we are worthy of nothing for which we ask, nor have we earned it. Instead we ask that God would give us all things by grace, for we sin daily and indeed earn only punishment. So, on the other hand, we, too, truly want to forgive heartily and do good gladly to those who sin against us.*

Prayer: Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls  
And bid resentment cease;  
Then, by your mercy reconciled,  
Our lives will spread your peace. LBW #307



## Friday

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Soldiers of Christ, arise and put your armor on,  
Strong in the strength which God supplies through his eternal Son;  
Strong in the Lord of Hosts, and in his mighty pow'r;  
Who in the strength of Jesus trusts is more than conqueror.  
From strength to strength go on, wrestle and fight and pray;  
Tread all the pow'rs of darkness down and win the well-fought day.  
That, having all things done, and all your conflicts past,  
Ye may o'ercome through Christ alone, and stand entire at last. SBH #564



*Like a roaring lion, your adversary the devil prowls around looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith. . . 1 Peter 5:8*

*It is true that God tempts no one, but we ask in this prayer that God would keep us, so that the devil, the world, and our flesh may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great and shameful sins, and that, although we may be attacked by them, we may finally prevail and gain the victory. The Good News is that we "prevail and gain the victory" not through our own power or strength, but solely through trusting in God's power and strength! God's Spirit, given at our baptism, does not desert us or leave us, but is the guarantee of God's own promise never to leave us or forsake us. We can't fight the devil or resist the powers of evil on our own. "No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, rejected. But now a champion comes to fight whom God himself elected." That's Jesus, who took on Satan on his own turf and defeated him once and for all – for us!*

Prayer: God the Father, be our stay; O let us perish never!  
Cleanse us from our sins, we pray, And grant us life forever.  
Keep us from the evil one; uphold our faith most holy,  
And let us trust you solely with humble hearts and lowly.  
Let us put God's armor on,

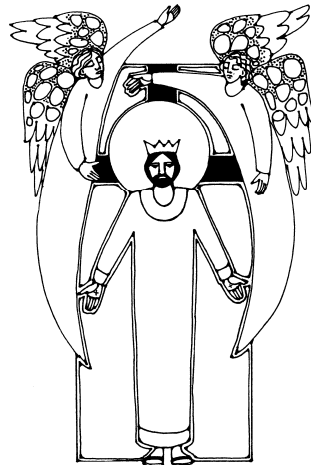
With all true Christians running our heav'nly race,  
And shunning the devil's wiles and cunning. LBW #308

His kingdom still increasing,

## Saturday

For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the  
glory forever and ever. Amen.

Kings shall fall down before him,  
And gold and incense bring,  
All nations shall adore him,  
His praise all people sing.  
To him shall prayer unceasing  
And daily vows ascend;  
A kingdom without end. LBW #87



*His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
and his sovereignty is from generation to generation. Daniel 4:3*

This section of the prayer is known as the “doxology” – a word derived from the Greek “doxa” meaning “glory.” This petition does not appear in the original Gospel of Matthew version of the Lord’s Prayer, but was added later. It was added to give glory to God – as it says in the Preface to Holy Communion, “*It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O Lord, Holy Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord. . .*” and what better time and place to give glory to God than when we pray! This is an affirmation of God’s power to do the very things we ask of him! “Amen” is a Hebrew word that closes the prayer. We use it so often that we rarely think about what it means. Luther sees the word as an additional affirmation. “*Amen, amen means yes, yes, it is going to come about just like this.*” God has promised to hear and answer our prayers, and God keeps his promises! Amen!

Prayer: Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things to your beloved Son, whom you anointed priest forever, and King of all creation: Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united under the glorious and gentle rule of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen. (*Prayer of the Day for Christ the King – LBW #108*)