

## Sermon for Pentecost 7, 2022

Luke 11:1-13

Teach us to Pray.

As our Lutheran Men in Mission supper and program was about to start, I asked Pastor Lackey to offer the prayer before meal. He responded, "David you can pray." That was probably thirty-two years ago." I did pray that evening and obviously the ground did not swallow me up.

The disciples ask Jesus, "Lord teach us to pray as John taught his disciples." Actually, the disciples do know how to pray. We too know how to pray.

The disciples had the Psalms just as we have them today. They had the table blessings just as we have ours. They had their nighttime and bedtime prayers just we have ours. And maybe we really do know how to pray, but I have not met a Christian who wishes they could pray better, pray more often, and pray using better words.

So, I can understand the why the disciples would ask Jesus, "Lord teach us to pray."

Jesus responds to this request, "When you pray, say..." Then Jesus gives us the words of what we know as the Lord's Prayer." When Jesus says, "When you pray, say..." And we do. In our liturgy we follow Jesus' instruction. We pray using the words that Jesus taught us. In fact the Lord's Prayer is all of services, Morning, and Evening Prayer, Prayer at The Close of The Day, and even in the order for mid-morning, noontime, and mid-afternoon prayer.

As disciples connected to Jesus by baptism and faith, we have this great treasure known as prayer. Martin Luther would say prayer is constant, for we always need grace God's grace and mercy, and prayer keeps our relationship with God alive. Prayer is the very breath of a disciple.

"Lord, teach us to pray." In the Lord's Prayer, not only does Jesus give us the words to say, but He also gives us that for which to pray.

1. First Jesus teaches us as children of God that we can approach God just like a child might approach their loving father. "Father."

2. That we faithful who were baptized into God's name and life pray that we are given strength to keep God's name holy in our lives and in word and deed.
3. We pray that we may catch and glimpse of God's heavenly Kingdom right here on earth, that we might experience just a bit of heaven here on earth. That God's Kingdom is experienced in our in our congregation.
4. We pray for our daily needs that support this life. "Our Daily Bread." Not just me, but bread for our neighbor too. That is living out "Love our neighbor as ourselves."
5. We pray Our lives as Jesus' disciples are filled with forgiveness. Pray for forgive, says Jesus. And not only my forgiveness but also that I too may live with a forgiving attitude and spirit. Not only our own forgiveness, but also those who have wronged me us. "O Lord my spirit is weak, Lord teach me to pray."
6. "Lead us not into temptation." Pray not to allow the devil to distort God's Word, His gracious work for our salvation, and gifts for this life, which lead to doubt. Keep us in the way of faith.

"When you pray say..." But Jesus does not stop there. He continues. He continues with a parable about a friend in need, even if it midnight. It is like Jesus is saying, not only do I give you words to pray, but There are also people to pray for. At times He sends to you people that need your prayers.

We know we should pray for the victims of disasters, crime, injustice, as well as the sick, the ailing, and the grieving. These are all good things to pray for. But what about the person who is downright annoying. The one who always gets under your skin and irritates you? The one wakes you at midnight expecting the same generous hospitality as you would give when normal people are awake. 'O Lord help me to love them. Forgive me for thinking ill of them in the quietness of my mind.'" Lord teach me to pray.

Or what about the person who pulled right in front of you at the gas pump during the two-dollar gallon special and they took the last of it and the special ended when you finally got to the pump.

And what great promises does Jesus give to us to encourage our prayer. Not to be afraid to knock on the neighbor's door at mid-night begging for a loaf of bread because your cupboard was bare when a visitor showed up at mid-night.

What great promise does Jesus give to us. Ask and I will provide, Seek and I will open your eyes, knock and I will open the door. You do not need to be persistent like you would in waking your neighbor to get Him out of bed at midnight to give you what you need. For God is not like that neighbor, He got up and became one of us in Jesus and came down from heaven to earth with the good gifts of salvation.

He taught Abraham to pray like that. The Lord gave Abraham folks to pray for. Bad folks, sinful folks, folks who were hurting his family. And He did. God never hid from Abraham what He was about to do. Even so, Abraham prayed for the folks that God would not destroy the city for the sake of fifty. God gave him that and much more all the way down to ten. I just wonder if God would have given Abraham more if He would not have stopped at ten. Hey Lord, come back I have another request. How about for the sake of one righteous person will you save the city. God's mercy is so much greater that even Abraham could imagine.

In fact, it did come down to one righteous person. Jesus, God's Son for our salvation.

The salvation that He won through His death on the cross and His Easter resurrection. That work won for our forgiveness and restored our relationship with God sparing us from the fire and brimstone we deserve. Giving us His relationship, "Child of God." What a treasure prayer is for you. You can come anytime and ask, seek, and knock and our gracious heavenly Father is ready to respond.

Do you think Jesus got annoyed at the disciples when they asked, "Lord teach us to pray? Most certainly not. That request had to be music to His ears.

It is the same for us children of God, Lord teach us to pray. That we pray with unceasing Thanksgiving, pray without judgment upon others, pray lifting one another up to God. Teach us to pray as a congregation, that we may be no longer dead in our trespasses but alive in You O Christ. Teach us to pray that

we may have confident and bold faith that our Father in heaven gives all we need, and the strength overcome our weakness.

Prayer is the breath of the disciple. So breathe the Word of God and breathe it out in prayer. When you are worried and anxious, breathe it and it will calm you. Just like the doctor recommends when you are worried. Take a breath. Breathe His Word breathe it out in prayer. Yes, we know how to pray. Yet teach us to pray. His ear are always open, and He ready to give you what you need.

Peace of God which passes all earthly understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.