



Life Prayer, Wayne Forte

Matthew 6:9-13 • Lord's Prayer
Covenant Fine Arts Center
Friday, 7:30 p.m.

Lord's Prayer • Matthew 6:9-13

*Pray then in this way:
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And do not bring us to the time of trial,
but rescue us from the evil one.*

Prayer of Preparation

Thomas H. Troeger

Let all who pray the prayer Christ taught, first clear the cluttered heart.
Make room to breathe the living thought those well-worn words impart.

Dismiss the fear that this world drifts with no one in command.
Your pulse and breath are signs and gifts from God's attentive hand.

Refine and test each passing aim against this final one:
Has your life hallowed heaven's name and has God's will been done?

Discard each vengeful hope that's fed the dreams of wars you'll win,
Then freely ask for daily bread and pardon from your sin.

Examine how temptation breeds inside the mind's dark maze,
Acknowledging that your life needs deliverance from its ways.

By faithful discipline prepare an inward holy space
That when you offer Jesus' prayer your heart may fill with grace.

Welcome and Introduction

Sung Prayer — *Our Father in Heaven*

Lift Up Your Hearts 68

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name

God is holy love, and he faces unholy nature. Yet, in his holiness, God is able to reach out to love that unholy nature... In the story of Jesus, the cross offers a more perfect resolution to this agony, where justice is served and ultimate, unqualified love is demonstrated.

Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes, 111-112

Prayer

Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 122

Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your name.
Help us to truly know you,
to honor, glorify, and praise you
for all your works
and for all that shines forth from them:
your almighty power, wisdom, kindness,
justice, mercy, and truth.

Help us to direct all our living—
what we think, say, and do—
so that your name will never be blasphemed because of us
but always honored and praised.

Meditation

Songs

Open the Eyes of My Heart *Lift Up Your Hearts 37*

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty *Lift Up Your Hearts 38*

As the Deer Pants for the Water *Lift Up Your Hearts 25*
Sung by the choir.

Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 The Shema

Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

***Your kingdom come,
Your will be done, on earth as in heaven***

We can affirm in quiet confidence that the ship of history moves in the direction God intends even when we live in the midst of destruction, horror and tragedy. We can pray “Thy kingdom come” in faith and confidence as we labor to prepare for that coming.

Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes, 115

Prayer

Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 123-4

Rule us by your Word and Spirit in such a way
that more and more we submit to you.

Preserve your church and make it grow.

Destroy the devil’s work;
destroy every force which revolts against you
and every conspiracy against your holy Word.

Do this until your kingdom fully comes,
when you will be
all in all.

Help us and all people
to reject our own wills
and to obey your will without any back talk.
Your will alone is good.

Help us one and all to carry out the work we are called to,
as willingly and faithfully as the angels in heaven.

Meditation

Songs

Pelas dores deste mundo/For the Troubles *Lift Up Your Hearts 47*

Psalm 117: Bānbîn ah/*Let All Nations Praise the Lord* *Lift Up Your Hearts 45*

Psalm 97:1-2, 9-12

The LORD is king! Let the earth rejoice;
let the many coastlands be glad!
Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;
righteousness and justice are the foundation
of his throne.

For you, O LORD, are most high over all the
earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.

The LORD loves those who hate evil;
he guards the lives of his faithful;
he rescues them from the hand of the
wicked.

Light dawns for the righteous,
and joy for the upright in heart.
Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous,
and give thanks to his holy name!

Romans 12:1-2, 9-12, 21

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters,
by the mercies of God, to present your bodies
as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to
God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not
be conformed to this world, but be transformed
by the renewing of your minds, so that you
may discern what is the will of God—what is
good and acceptable and perfect.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast
to what is good; love one another with mutual
affection; outdo one another in showing honor.
Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the
Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering,
persevere in prayer.

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil
with good.

Give us this day our daily bread

Fear of not having enough to eat can destroy a sense of well-being in the present and erode hope for the future... Jesus teaches his disciples a prayer that means, "Deliver us, O Lord, from the fear of not having enough to eat. Give us bread for today and with it give us confidence that tomorrow we will have enough."

Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes, 122

Prayer

Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 125

Do take care of all our physical needs
so that we come to know
 that you are the only source of everything good,
 and that neither our work and worry
 nor your gifts
 can do us any good without your blessing.

And so help us to give up our trust in creatures
and trust in you alone.

Meditation

Songs

Psalm 23: *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* *Lift Up Your Hearts 27*

My Song is Love Unknown *Lift Up Your Hearts 12*

Exodus 16: 1-5, 34-35

The whole congregation of the Israelites set out from Elim; and Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days."

Matthew 6:28-34

Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. "So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors

The request for forgiveness is side by side with the petition for bread. Daily life requires both bread and forgiveness. In addition, Christians must not think of forgiveness merely as a great dramatic act that occurs at the beginning of the pilgrimage of faith, but as a daily need. Each day the faithful need to ask God to pick up the broken pieces of their lives and restore to them the joy of their salvation. The one who prays this prayer asks for release from the guilt of unfulfilled responsibilities and for a lifting of the burden of wrongdoing.

Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes, 126

Prayer

Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 126

Because of Christ's blood,
do not hold against us, poor sinners that we are,
any of the sins we do
or the evil that constantly clings to us.

Forgive us just as we are fully determined,
as evidence of your grace in us,
to forgive our neighbors.

Meditation

Songs

Perdón, Señor/Forgive Us, Lord

Lift Up Your Hearts 46

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Lift Up Your Hearts 50

Psalm 103:8-13

The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast
love.

He will not always accuse,
nor will he keep his anger forever.
He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those
who fear him;

as far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from
us.

As a father has compassion for his children,
so the LORD has compassion for those who
fear him.

Colossians 3:12-14

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,
clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness,
humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with
one another and, if anyone has a complaint
against another, forgive each other; just as
the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must
forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love,
which binds everything together in perfect
harmony.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil

John Calvin writes, “In brief, being conscious of our own weakness, we ask to be defended by God’s protection, that we may have an impregnable position against all devices of Satan.” The petition for protection from evil, or from the evil one, is a cry from the heart in every age.

Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes, 129

Prayer

Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 127

By ourselves we are too weak
to hold our own even for a moment.
And our sworn enemies—
the devil, the world, and our own flesh—
never stop attacking us.

And so, Lord,
uphold us and make us strong
with the strength of your Holy Spirit,
so that we may not go down to defeat
in this spiritual struggle,
but may firmly resist our enemies
until we finally win the complete victory.

Meditation

Songs

His Eye is on the Sparrow *Lift Up Your Hearts 31*

Psalm 90: O God, Our Help in Ages Past *Lift Up Your Hearts 28*

Abana alathi fi ssama/Abana in Heaven *Lift Up Your Hearts 67*

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth
should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of
the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its
tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the
city of God,

the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be
moved;

God will help it when the morning dawns.
The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms
totter;

he utters his voice, the earth melts.
The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Come, behold the works of the LORD;
see what desolations he has brought on the
earth.

He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.

“Be still, and know that I am God!

I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth.”

The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

***For yours is the kingdom, and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.***

Prayer

Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 128

We have made all these petitions of you
because, as our all-powerful king,
you are both willing and able
to give us all that is good;
and because your holy name,
and not we ourselves,
should receive all the praise, forever.

Doxology

Sing Praise to the Lord, You People of Grace *Lift Up Your Hearts* 3

Meditations—Kenneth Bailey

Prayers—Symposium international guests

Song leaders—*Lift Up Your Hearts* Editorial Team and friends

Choir—Western Michigan Christian High School Choir—Kathryn Becksvoot, director

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Revelation 4:1-2, 6-11

After this I looked, and there in heaven a door stood open! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.” At once I was in the spirit, and there in heaven stood a throne, with one seated on the throne!

Around the throne, and on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with a face like a human face, and the fourth living creature like a flying eagle. And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and inside. Day and night without ceasing they sing,

“Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God the Almighty, who was and is and is to come.”

And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to the one who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall before the one who is seated on the throne and worship the one who lives forever and ever; they cast their crowns before the throne, singing,

“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”