# PRAYER

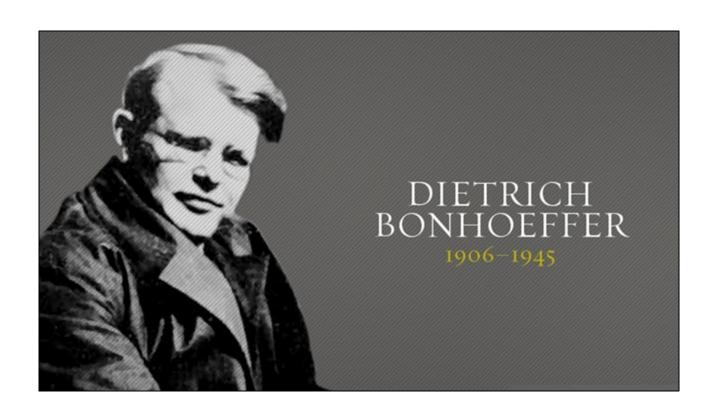
God's Promise to Listen



## PRAYER

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for Easter 6



When men pray, they have ceased to know themselves, and know only God whom they call upon.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship

## Session 4: Bible

Prayer | Matthew 6:5–15; Luke 11:1–13 (p. 964, 1033)

Priest | John 17:1–26 (p. 1073–1074)

Mediator | 1 Timothy 2:1-5 (p. 1176)



## Session 4: Catechism

Martin Luther's Small and Large Catechisms

p. 44-51, 63-66, 232-270

Didache

p. 31-37, 44-46



## Session 4: Hymnal

Psalms | LSB xxvi, 1–150 Thanksgiving | LSB 161–163 Prayer Offices | LSB 219–267 Responsive Prayer | LSB 282–287 Litany | LSB 290–291



## THEOLOGY OF PRAYER

God's "Yes"





#### 1. Theology of Prayer

- a. As Christians, we pray because of God's command and the promise added to prayer (Large Catechism III 17-21)
  - i. If there were only God's command to pray, we should do it out of obedience
  - ii. But the promise is also added: that God will hear and answer prayers as a Father
  - iii. There is a distinction between Law and Gospel in Christian prayer
  - iv. Is prayer a means of grace?
    - 1. Not in the sense that it works simply by praying
    - 2. God does attach promises to prayer
    - 3. But His good gifts are not only bound to prayer
- b. Prayer does not move God to give gifts; God's gifts move us to prayer
  - i. Pattern of explanations to the Lord's Prayer in the Small Catechism: God certainly gives without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that He would give to us also.
  - ii. Prayer is not a divine vending machine
- c. God's answer to prayer
  - i. Yes, no, maybe? Every kid knows that "maybe" is just another way of saying, "No"
  - ii. Yes, no, not yet? Better, but it reveals a stingy God
  - iii. Yes, or, here's something better? The answer of a Father who loves to give good gifts
  - iv. "As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been Yes and No. For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes. For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory" (2 Corinthians 1:18-20)

- Prayer in Jesus' name always receives a yes

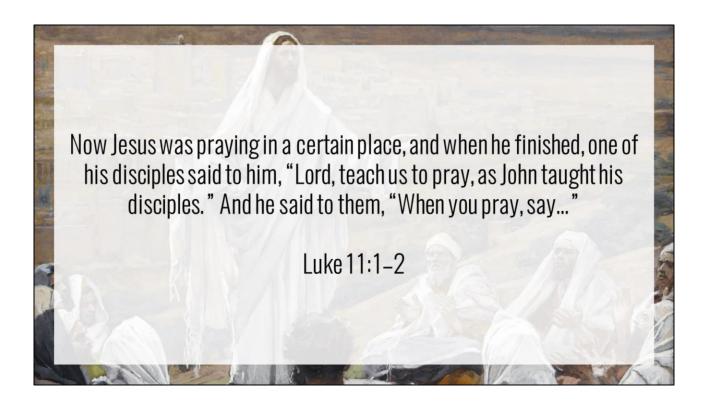
  1. Not just uttering Jesus' name at the end of a prayer

  2. But praying as a baptized child of God, according to God's will, with faith in His promises
  - 3. Prayer often leads you to God's will ("Here's something better")

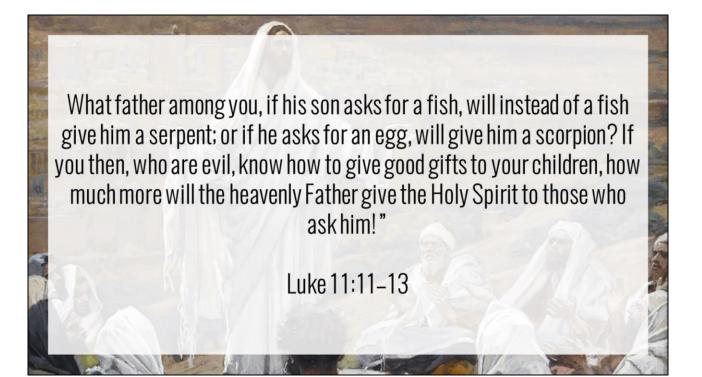
# The Lord's Prayer



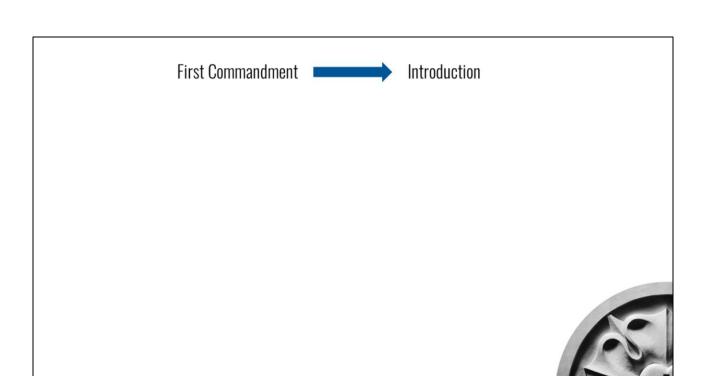
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.



a. A third reason for Christians to pray is because Christ Himself gives us the words to say when we pray (c.f. Luke 11:2; "When you pray, say...")



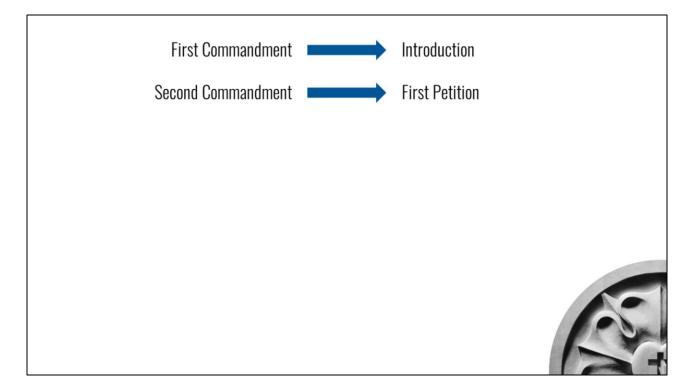
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- c. The Lord's Prayer puts the Ten Commandments and the Creed into practice
  - i. You shall have no other gods besides our Father who art in heaven

With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.





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  - ii. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord Your God, but hallow it

God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.

## How does God's kingdom come?

God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!

First Commandment Introduction

Second Commandment First Petition

Third Commandment Second Petition



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  - iii. Remember the Sabbath day, for God reigns as you rest

The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.

## How does God's kingdom come?

God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.



First Commandment Introduction

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Fourth–Tenth Commandments Third Petition



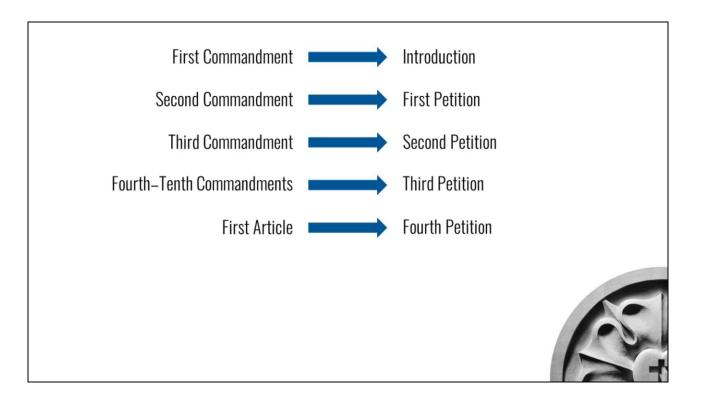
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  - iv. Honor your father and your mother and love your neighbor as yourself, for this is God's will in heaven for your life on earth

The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

### How is God's will done?

God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die.

This is His good and gracious will.

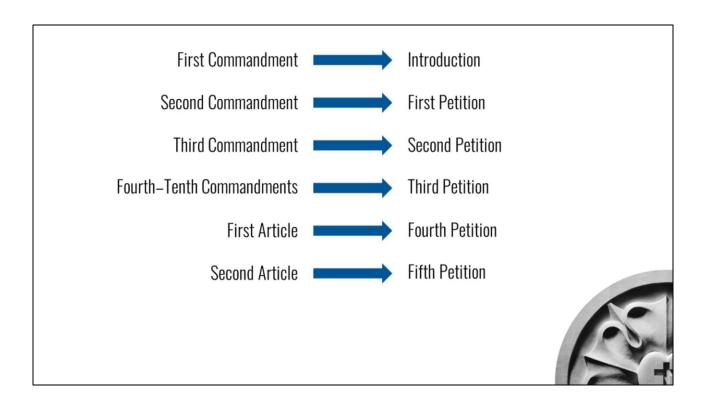


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  - iv. Honor your father and your mother and love your neighbor as yourself, for this is God's will in heaven for your life on earth
  - v. I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and the giver of daily bread

God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

## What is meant by daily bread?

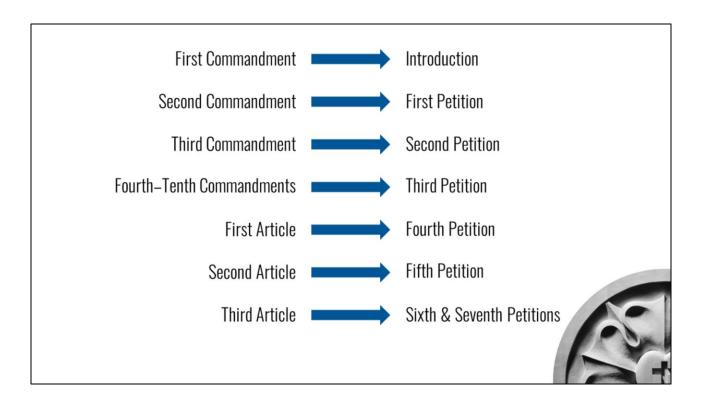
Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.



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  - v. I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and the giver of daily hread
  - vi. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, who forgives our debts so that we may forgive our debtors

We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

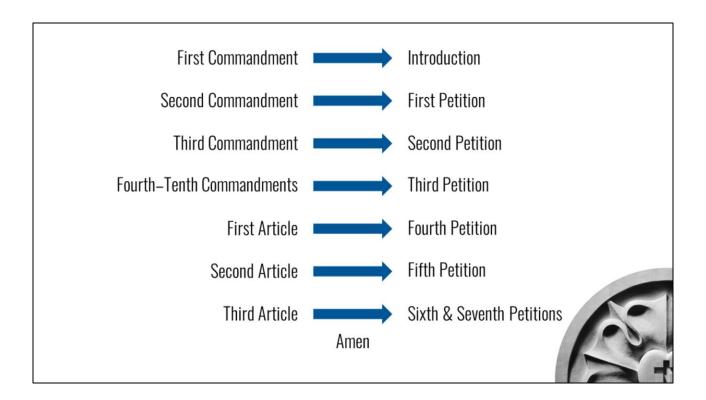




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  - vi. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, who forgives our debts so that we may forgive our debtors
  - vii. And in the Holy Spirit, who leads us through temptation to the final deliverance from all evil.

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.

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.



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  - vi. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, who forgives our debts so that we may forgive our debtors
  - vii. And in the Holy Spirit, who leads us through temptation to the final deliverance from all evil.
  - viii. Amen.
- d. The Lord's Prayer is a model prayer

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."



# Daily Prayer





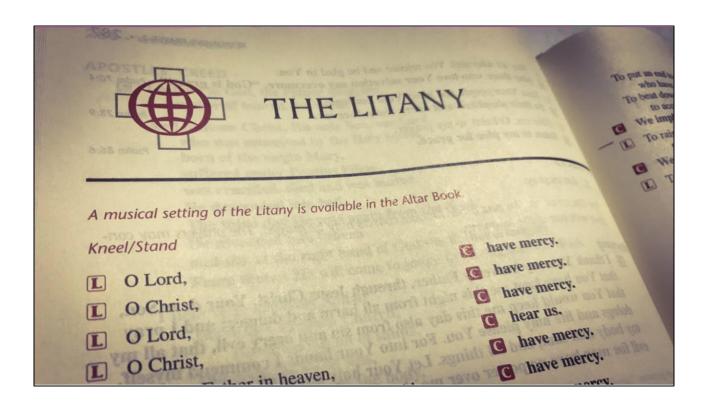
#### 3. Daily Prayer

- a. It is not only necessary to know how to pray, but also when to pray
- b. Prayer follows the rhythms of daily life
  - i. Morning and evening prayer (c.f. Psalm 55:16-17)
  - ii. Before and after meals
- c. The Lord's Prayer is part of the daily rhythm of prayer; if you keep the Small Catechism Daily Prayer schedule, you would pray the Our Father 8 times a day

# Worship

Prayer offices





#### 4. Worship

- a. Prayer may be informal, but formal prayer is also beneficial
- b. Formal prayer services are a training ground for informal prayer
- c. The Psalms are the prayer book of the Bible; *Lutheran Service Book* includes about two-thirds of them
- d. Matins, Vespers, and Compline grow out of medieval monastic prayer hours, but are modified for Christians in any vocation.
- e. Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer are newer compositions, following the patterns of Matins and Vespers
- f. Responsive Prayer 1 & 2 are simpler prayer orders based on Suffrages and Itinerarium (prayer before travel)
- g. The Litany expands upon the bid, "Lord, have mercy." It is very suitable to penitential seasons and times of great need