

Prayer Luke 11:1-11 7<sup>th</sup> Sun. After Pentecost Jul.29, 2019

Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” Luke 11:1 Prayer

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we all know the Lord’s prayer. We pray it every Sunday. In fact, if you look through all the services in the LSB, not just the divine services but Matins and Vespers and even those we don’t use like Compline and evening prayer, it is about the only element we use unchanged from service to service. We have a different sermon, we may or may not have an invocation and confession of sins, the creeds are one of three if they are there at all, the hymns and songs and readings change, but we always have the Lord’s prayer. We know the Lord’s prayer.

And it isn’t just Lutherans. You can go to almost any denomination, say for a wedding or a funeral, even those that stray far from the truth, and they also say the Lord’s prayer. We can put it in at a baccalaureate or a wedding and the guests from California won’t bat an eye, they will say it right with you. We know the Lord’s prayer.

So when one of Jesus’ disciples says, “Lord, teach us to pray,” and he begins with the Lord’s prayer, we are ready to put up a mission accomplished banner and move on. Because we know the Lord’s prayer. We know it so well we often are ready to recite it rather than pray it. And if we’ve reached that point, maybe we should slow down and say with that disciple, “Lord, teach us to pray.”

Jesus starts with the address, Father, or in Matthew, Our Father in heaven. He tells us to talk to the God of the Universe, to the one who created you and me and planets and galaxies and still holds them in His hand, and call Him Father. And we can take two things from that. One is that we are God’s children; we are family. We approach him not to barter or trade but, as Luther tells us, as dear children as their dear father. And as parents know when dealing with their own children, the child’s heart matters more than their words when they approach us. It isn’t for show or speeches, and if it is, there is already something wrong. The second is that good comes from him. In land of Israel and in the near east, the father had everything. You might remember from the parable of the prodigal son, the older son felt that he could not even have a young goat. Everything, all his good, was wrapped up in the father. The younger son demonstrated this all the stronger when he even asked for his inheritance. There was no where else to go for any good thing. So it is with our heavenly father, who we offer nothing but ask everything as his dearly love children. We trust him not only because of our relationship to him, but also as I trusted the pilot of the airplane in the way to Tampa this past week - since he was flying the plane, there was no one else to trust. And he knew what he was doing in getting me to Tampa far better than I did.

So it is with God, our Father. He is different and entirely trustworthy in everything, He is set apart above and beyond all creation. He is set apart in his love and care for us. So we hallow His name with the holiness, the set apart-ness, he has. We treat our fathers and mother with special care, because they are special and because they are special to us. How much more the God who made us and redeems us and still takes care of us.

So we trust his hand on us. We pray for his kingdom, for his rule, not just in name but especially among us, because we have nowhere else to look for good.

We will continue with the story of the man whose guest came at midnight. Who went to his friend and said, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’. The response is not, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything.’ No, because of the man’s boldness, he will receive all he needs. I ask you today to look at the man who is desperate with no bread, who is required to help his guest, but has no food. And he doesn’t putter in the kitchen. He doesn’t keep looking in bins or dig

through the trash to see if there is something that can be salvaged. He sees his need and goes to his neighbor, because there is no where else to go.

When you pray, and especially when you pray the Lord's prayer, see your need. You need God's name to cover you. You are dead in your sins and need God to come with His kingdom to make you alive. You can't even make the rain fall on your crops, but he can do not only that but make forgiveness rain on your life. Come to the one who can help. Trust in your Father; pray to Him. Pray especially for His spirit, given through His son, for He was so eager to give it he gave his own son that He may come to you.

Our Lord teaches us to pray. When we teach youngster to pray, we tell them to fold their hands. Yet often, we now pray with our eyes open and our hands at our work. WE often pray help me with what I do, and forget what God does. This is sin. So fold your hands and close your eyes and let the spirit show you the father. Our Lord taught us to pray, Father, your kingdom come. Trust him, pray earnestly and continuously. For your Father and his kingdom are all your good.