



TEACH US TO PRAY

Devotions for Lent  
on the Lord's Prayer

2026



ZION  
LUTHERAN

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# Teach Us to Pray

## Devotions for Lent on the Lord's Prayer

### 2026

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### THE ADDRESS

#### Our Father who art in heaven.

*What is this?* Here God tenderly urges us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that we may ask Him confidently and with full conviction, as dear children ask their dear father.



*Sunday, February 15*

### The Personal “Father”

**Scripture:** *“Behold what manner of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God.”* (1 John 3:1)

**Reflection:** Luther notes that God “tenderly urges us to believe that He is our true Father.” How does it change your prayer life to know you aren’t talking to a distant judge, but a loving parent?

**Prayer:** Dear Father, thank You for adopting me as Your own child through Christ. Help me to trust Your love more than my own feelings today.



*Monday, February 16*

### The Communal “Our”

**Scripture:** *“For you did not receive a spirit of slavery that returns you to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption to sonship, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’”* (Romans 8:15)

**Reflection:** We do not pray “My Father,” but “Our Father.” Who are the brothers and sisters in Christ you are carrying with you in prayer today?

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of Your Church and my fellow believers. Teach me to care for their needs as much as I care for my own.



*Tuesday, February 17*

### Holy Boldness

**Scripture:** *“Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”* (Hebrews 4:16)

**Reflection:** To pray “Our Father” is to pray “confidently and with full conviction,” just as a child asks for a piece of bread. What “impossible” request have you been too afraid to bring to Him?

**Prayer:** Lord, give me the courage to ask You for what I truly need without fear. Help me trust that You delight in hearing the voices of Your children.



*Ash Wednesday, February 18*

## God in Heaven

**Scripture:** “*The LORD has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all.*” (Psalm 103:19)

**Reflection:** While God is our Father (near), He is also “in heaven” (holy and sovereign). How does His position over all things give you peace when the world feels out of control?

**Prayer:** Almighty God, I rest in the knowledge that You rule over every power and authority. May Your heavenly peace guard my heart against the anxieties of this world.



*Thursday, February 19*

## True Children

**Scripture:** “*But to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.*” (John 1:12)

**Reflection:** Luther emphasizes that we are “true children.” Do you ever feel like an “impostor” in God’s family, and how does this Scripture correct that thought?

**Prayer:** Father, remind me that my place in Your family depends on Jesus’ work, not mine. Let me live today in the freedom of being Your beloved child.



*Friday, February 20*

## The “Dear” Father

**Scripture:** “*Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone?*” (Matthew 7:9)

**Reflection:** Luther uses the phrase “dear children ask their dear father.” How can viewing God as “dear” or “precious” soften your heart during difficult times?

**Prayer:** Dear Father, thank You for being better to me than even the best earthly parent. Help me to seek Your face with joy and not just out of duty.



*Saturday, February 21*

## Certainty in Prayer

**Scripture:** “*For all the promises of God are ‘Yes’ in Christ.*” (2 Corinthians 1:20)

**Reflection:** The Address sets the stage for the word “Amen,” which means “Yes, yes, it shall be so.” How does knowing God is your Father make you certain that He hears you?

**Prayer:** Father, I thank You for the promise that You hear and answer every prayer according to Your will. I trust that because I am Your child, You will never leave me or forsake me.

## THE FIRST PETITION

### Hallowed be Thy name.

*What is this?* God's name is certainly holy in itself; but we pray in this petition that it may become holy among us also.

*How is this done?* When the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we as the children of God also lead holy lives in accordance with it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches and lives in any other way than what God's Word teaches defiles the name of God among us. Preserve us from this, Heavenly Father!



*Monday, February 23*

### Pure Doctrine

**Scripture:** *"Hold on to the pattern of sound teaching you have heard from me, with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus."* (2 Timothy 1:13)

**Reflection:** Luther explains that God's name is hallowed when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity. Why is it vital for your spiritual health to hear God's Word taught accurately?

**Prayer:** Lord, guide my pastors and teachers to speak only Your truth according to the Holy Scriptures. Keep me from being led astray by false ideas that obscure Your glory.



*Sunday, February 22*

## The Name Above All Names

**Scripture:** *"O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!"* (Psalm 8:1)

**Reflection:** God's name is holy in itself, but we pray that it may be kept holy *among us*. How often do you stop to marvel at the majesty of God's name before jumping into your list of requests?

**Prayer:** Holy Father, let Your name be held in the highest honor in my heart and my home. May I never treat the mention of Your presence as a common or ordinary thing.



*Tuesday, February 24*

### Living the Name

**Scripture:** *"In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."* (Matthew 5:16)

**Reflection:** We hallow God's name when we "lead holy lives" as the children of God. Does your behavior this week point people toward God's holiness or away from it?

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, help me to live in a way that reflects Your goodness to the world. Let my actions be a living testimony to the grace You have shown me.



Wednesday, February 25

## Protecting the Reputation

**Scripture:** “*You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave anyone unpunished who takes His name in vain.*” (Exodus 20:7)

**Reflection:** To hallow God's name is the opposite of taking it in vain. In what ways do we sometimes use God's name to justify our own selfish desires or opinions?

**Prayer:** Forgive me, Lord, for the times I have used Your name carelessly or for my own ends. Teach me to speak of You with the reverence and awe You deserve.



Thursday, February 26

## The Gift of the Name

**Scripture:** “*for, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'*” (Romans 10:13)

**Reflection:** God gives us His name as a gift so that we can call upon Him in every trouble. How does having “access” to the Name of the Almighty change your perspective on your current struggles?

**Prayer:** Thank You, Father, for the privilege of carrying Your name through my Baptism. Grant me the faith to call upon You whenever I am afraid or overwhelmed.



Friday, February 27

## Guarding Against Profanity

**Scripture:** “*If anyone teaches another doctrine and disagrees with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ... he is conceited and understands nothing.*” (1 Timothy 6:3-4)

**Reflection:** Luther warns that anyone who “teaches and lives in any other way than what God's Word teaches defiles the name of God among us.” Where do you see a need for repentance in how you represent Christ to others?

**Prayer:** Lord, preserve me from hypocrisy and false pride that would bring shame to Your name. Correct me by Your Spirit whenever I wander from the path of Your truth.



Saturday, February 28

## Eternal Hallowing

**Scripture:** “*Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!*” (Revelation 4:8)

**Reflection:** In heaven, God's name is hallowed perfectly and eternally. How does the promise of future glory encourage you to keep His name holy here on earth today?

**Prayer:** Father, I look forward to the day when Your name is honored perfectly by all creation. Until then, use my life as a vessel for Your holiness and praise.

### THE SECOND PETITION

**Thy kingdom come.**

*What is this?* The kingdom of God comes by itself even without our prayer; but we pray in this petition that it would come to us also.

*How is this done?* When our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead a godly life here in time and there in eternity.



*Sunday, March 1*

## The Kingdom is a Gift

**Scripture:** *“Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom.”* (Luke 12:32)

**Reflection:** Luther notes that God's kingdom comes “by itself even without our prayer,” but we pray it comes to *us*. Do you view God's reign as something you have to earn, or as a gift He delights to give?

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, thank You for inviting me into Your kingdom by grace alone. Help me to rest in the joy of Your royal favor today.



*Monday, March 2*

## The Work of the Holy Spirit

**Scripture:** *“No one can say, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ except by the Holy Spirit.”* (1 Corinthians 12:3)

**Reflection:** The kingdom comes when the Father gives us His Holy Spirit. How can you more consciously rely on the Spirit to sustain your faith rather than your own willpower?

**Prayer:** Holy Spirit, come and dwell within me so that I may believe God's holy Word. Strengthen my heart to trust in Jesus as my King and Savior.



*Tuesday, March 3*

## The Power of the Gospel

**Scripture:** *“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.”* (Romans 1:16)

**Reflection:** God's kingdom is not built by force, but by the “power of God” found in the Gospel. Where do you need the peace of the Gospel to reign in your life today?

**Prayer:** Lord, let Your Gospel be preached throughout the world and in my own heart. May the message of Jesus' cross and resurrection expand Your kingdom in every nation.



*Wednesday, March 4*

## Living Under Our King

**Scripture:** “*He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of His beloved Son.*” (Colossians 1:13)

**Reflection:** Being in the kingdom means we are “transferred” from darkness. How does knowing you are a citizen of heaven change how you respond to the “darkness” of world events?

**Prayer:** King Jesus, thank You for rescuing me from the power of sin and death. Help me to live today as a loyal subject of Your kingdom of light.



*Thursday, March 5*

## The Kingdom “Among Us”

**Scripture:** “*For you see, the kingdom of God is in your midst.*” (Luke 17:21)

**Reflection:** The kingdom isn't just a future place; it is present wherever God's Word is rightly taught. How can you “hallow” God's presence in your daily interactions with others?

**Prayer:** Father, let Your kingdom be visible in my life through acts of love and service. May others see Your reign through the kindness I show to my neighbors.



*Friday, March 6*

## Resisting the Other Kingdom

**Scripture:** “*The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*” (2 Corinthians 4:4)

**Reflection:** Praying “Thy kingdom come” is also a prayer against the kingdom of the devil. What distractions or “false kings” are currently competing for your heart's allegiance?

**Prayer:** Lord, protect me from the deceptions of the world and the whispers of the enemy. Keep me steadfast in Your truth so that no other king rules over me.



*Saturday, March 7*

## The Future Glory

**Scripture:** “*Then the seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and loud voices called out in heaven: ‘The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.’*” (Revelation 11:15)

**Reflection:** We pray for the kingdom to come now in grace and later in eternal glory. How does the promise of Christ's return give you hope in the midst of suffering?

**Prayer:** Come, Lord Jesus, and bring Your kingdom in all its fullness. We long for the day when every knee shall bow and Your peace shall reign forever.

### THE THIRD PETITION

**Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

*What is this?* The good and gracious will of God is certainly done without our prayer; but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

*How is this done?* When God breaks and hinders every evil counsel and intention which would not let us hallow the name of God nor let His kingdom come, such as the will of the devil, the world, and our flesh; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until our end. This is His gracious and good will.

*Sunday, March 8*

### The Good and Gracious Will

**Scripture:** “*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you a future and a hope.*” (Jeremiah 29:11)

**Reflection:** Luther teaches that God’s will is done “without our prayer,” but we pray it happens *among us*. Do you truly believe God’s intentions for your life are “good and gracious,” even when things are difficult?

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, thank You for Your kind intentions toward me in Christ Jesus. Help me to trust Your heart even when I cannot trace Your hand.



*Monday, March 9*

### Breaking Evil Plans

**Scripture:** “*The LORD frustrates the plans of the nations; He thwarts the devices of the peoples.*” (Psalm 33:10)

**Reflection:** We pray that God would break and hinder “every evil counsel and intention” of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature. What specific worry or temptation do you need God to “hinder” today?

**Prayer:** Lord, stop any plan—whether from the enemy or my own heart—that would lead me away from You. Let Your counsel stand firm in my life above all other voices.



*Tuesday, March 10*

### Strengthening and Keeping

**Scripture:** “*Now may the God of peace... equip you with every good thing to do His will.*” (Hebrews 13:20-21)

**Reflection:** This petition is a request for God to strengthen and keep us firm “firm in His Word and faith until our end.” In what area of your faith do you feel “weak” and in need of His supernatural bracing?

**Prayer:** Holy Spirit, strengthen my weary heart and keep me firmly planted in the truth of the Gospel. Do not let me waver when the world pressures me to compromise.



*Wednesday, March 11*  
**As It Is in Heaven**

**Scripture:** *"Bless the LORD, all His angels mighty in strength who carry out His word, who hearken to the voice of His command."* (Psalm 103:20)

**Reflection:** In heaven, the angels obey God perfectly and joyfully. How would your day look different if you approached your tasks with the same "heavenly" readiness?

**Prayer:** Father, may Your will be done in my life with the same joy and promptness found in heaven. Remove my grumbling and replace it with a heart eager to serve.



*Thursday, March 12*  
**The Will of God is Your Salvation**

**Scripture:** *"For it is My Father's will that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."* (John 6:40)

**Reflection:** God's primary "will" is not a secret blueprint for your career, but your salvation in Christ. How does this focus simplify your search for "God's will" today?

**Prayer:** Lord, I thank You that Your greatest desire is for me to know Your Son. Keep my eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of my faith.



*Friday, March 13*  
**Submission in the Garden**

**Scripture:** *"Father, if You are willing, take this cup from Me. Yet not My will, but Yours be done."* (Luke 22:42)

**Reflection:** Jesus modeled this petition perfectly in Gethsemane. Is there a "cup" or a burden in your life that you need to entrust to the Father's superior wisdom?

**Prayer:** Dear Jesus, thank You for submitting to the Father's will for my sake. Help me to say "not my will, but Yours" when I face my own moments of trial.



*Saturday, March 14*  
**Steadfast Until the End**

**Scripture:** *"And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace... will Himself restore you, secure you, strengthen you, and establish you."* (1 Peter 5:10)

**Reflection:** To hallow God's name and see His kingdom come, we must remain steadfast in His Word until we die. What "end" are you hoping for as you walk with God?

**Prayer:** Father, keep me faithful to Your Word until my last breath. May Your good and gracious will be the final word over my life and my eternity.

### THE FOURTH PETITION

**Give us this day our daily bread.**  
*What is this?* God gives daily bread, even without our prayer, to all evil people; but we pray in this petition that He would lead us to recognize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

*What is meant by daily bread?* Everything that belongs to the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, property, land, animals, money, goods, a devout spouse, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, discipline, honor, good friends, faithful neighbors, and other such things.

**Sunday, March 15**

### What is “Daily Bread”?

**Scripture:** “*The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food in season. You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.*” (Psalm 145:15–16)

**Reflection:** Luther defines “daily bread” as everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body (food, drink, clothing, house, etc.). Do you recognize these basic necessities as direct gifts from God’s open hand?

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, thank You for providing for my physical life so faithfully. Help me to see every meal and every comfort as a sign of Your fatherly goodness.



**Monday, March 16**

### Bread for the Thankless

**Scripture:** “*He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.*” (Matthew 5:45)

**Reflection:** God gives daily bread to all evil people “even without our prayer.” Why is it important for us to pray for it anyway, and how does it change our attitude toward what we own?

**Prayer:** Lord, I acknowledge that everything I have is a gift I did not earn. Grant me a heart of gratitude so that I never take Your common grace for granted.



**Tuesday, March 17**

### The Gift of “This Day”

**Scripture:** “*Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Today has enough trouble of its own.*” (Matthew 6:34)

**Reflection:** We pray for “this day,” not for next year or next decade. In what ways are you letting “tomorrow’s” bread worries steal the peace God has provided for you today?

**Prayer:** Father, give me enough for today and help me trust You for what comes tomorrow. Quiet my anxious thoughts with the assurance of Your daily presence.



Wednesday, March 18

## Good Government and Peace

**Scripture:** “First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be offered for everyone—for kings and all those in authority—so that we may lead tranquil and quiet lives in all godliness and dignity.” (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

**Reflection:** Luther includes “devout and faithful rulers” and “good government” in his definition of daily bread. How does the stability of your community impact your ability to receive and enjoy God’s physical gifts?

**Prayer:** Lord, bless those in authority with wisdom and integrity so that we may live in peace. Preserve our land from discord and provide for the needs of all our neighbors.



Thursday, March 19

## Contentment with Enough

**Scripture:** “But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these.” (1 Timothy 6:8)

**Reflection:** Daily bread is about *need*, not necessarily *greed*. Where is the line between asking for God’s provision and chasing after worldly excess in your own life?

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, teach me the secret of contentment in every circumstance. Help me to be satisfied with what You provide, knowing You know exactly what I need.



Friday, March 20

## Good Weather and Harvest

**Scripture:** “Yet He has not left Himself without testimony to His goodness: He gives you rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling your hearts with food and gladness.” (Acts 14:17)

**Reflection:** We often forget that our “bread” starts with soil, sun, and rain. How can you be more mindful of God’s creation and the laborers who help bring food to your table?

**Prayer:** Lord, bless the farmers and all who work to provide the world’s food. We thank You for the cycles of nature that sustain our lives according to Your design.



Saturday, March 21

## Bread for the Neighbor

**Scripture:** “Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. 16If one of you tells him, ‘Go in peace; stay warm and well fed,’ but does not provide for his physical needs, what good is that?” (James 2:15-16)

**Reflection:** When God gives us “our” daily bread, He often gives us enough to share. Who in your life is currently lacking “daily bread,” and how can you be the answer to their prayer?

**Prayer:** Father, use my hands to distribute Your bounty to those in need. Let me be a channel of Your provision so that others may see Your love through my generosity.

### THE FIFTH PETITION

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

*What is this?* We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look upon our sins, nor refuse our petitions because of them; for we are worthy of none of the things for which we pray, neither have we deserved them. Instead, we pray that He would grant them all to us by grace; for we daily sin much, and we truly deserve nothing but punishment. In the same way, on our part, we will also sincerely forgive and willingly do good to those who sin against us.

**Sunday, March 22**

### Praying for Grace, Not Merit

**Scripture:** *“For we are not presenting our petitions before You because of our righteous acts, but because of Your great compassion.”* (Daniel 9:18)

**Reflection:** Luther explains that we are “worthy of none of the things for which we pray.” How does admitting your unworthiness actually give you more confidence in God’s mercy?

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, I come to You not because I am good, but because You are gracious. Forgive my sins today for the sake of Jesus Christ, my Savior.



**Monday, March 23**

### The Gift of a Clear Conscience

**Scripture:** *“Let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.”* (Hebrews 10:22)

**Reflection:** We pray that God would not “refuse our petitions” because of our sins. What specific guilt has been weighing on your conscience, and have you truly released it to Him?

**Prayer:** Lord, wash away the guilt that clings to me and settle my heart in Your peace. Help me to believe that in Christ, I am fully and freely forgiven.



**Tuesday, March 24**

### Forgiveness as a Lifestyle

**Scripture:** *“Be kind and tenderhearted to one another, forgiving each other just as in Christ God forgave you.”* (Ephesians 4:32)

**Reflection:** We pray that we will “sincerely forgive and willingly do good to those who sin against us.” Who is the most difficult person for you to “gladly do good to” right now?

**Prayer:** Father, soften my heart toward those who have wronged or offended me. Grant me the strength to forgive others as generously as You have forgiven me.



*Wednesday, March 25*

## Looking Past the Trespass

**Scripture:** “A man’s insight gives him patience, and his virtue is to overlook an offense.” (Proverbs 19:11)

**Reflection:** To “overlook an offense” is an act of “hallowing” God’s name. How can you practice being “slow to anger” in your home or workplace this week?

**Prayer:** Lord, give me the wisdom to let go of petty grievances and minor slights. Let Your love in me be greater than my desire to be right or to hold a grudge.



*Thursday, March 26*

## The Daily Need for Mercy

**Scripture:** “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” (1 John 1:8)

**Reflection:** Luther notes that “we daily sin much, and we truly deserve nothing but punishment.” How does the “daily” nature of this prayer keep you humble and reliant on God’s grace?

**Prayer:** Dear Father, thank You that Your mercies are new every single morning. Keep me mindful of my need for You so that I never become prideful or self-sufficient.



*Friday, March 27*

## The Link Between Prayers

**Scripture:** “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.” (Matthew 6:14)

**Reflection:** This is the only petition where we make a “promise” back to God. Why is our forgiveness of others a necessary fruit of being forgiven by God?

**Prayer:** Father, do not let bitterness take root in my soul and block the joy of Your presence. Help me to release others from their debts just as You have released me from mine.



*Saturday, March 28*

## Boldness Through Forgiveness

**Scripture:** “Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.” (Psalm 32:1)

**Reflection:** Forgiveness isn’t just about removing guilt; it’s about restoring the “boldness” to talk to God as a Father. How has receiving God’s forgiveness empowered you to serve Him today?

**Prayer:** Lord God, thank You for covering my sins and calling me Your own. May the joy of Your salvation be my strength as I go out to serve my neighbor.

## THE SIXTH PETITION

### And lead us not into temptation.

*What is this? God certainly tempts no one; but we pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us, so that the devil, the world, and our flesh may not deceive or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice; and that, though they attack us, we would finally overcome and win the victory.*



*Palm Sunday, March 29*

## The Divine Bodyguard

**Scripture:** “*No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide an escape, so that you can stand up under it.*” (1 Corinthians 10:13)

**Reflection:** Luther notes that God “tempts no one,” but we pray He would protect us. How does it comfort you to know that God sets a limit on the trials you face?

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, thank You for being my shield and my protector. Keep me from situations today that would be too much for my faith to bear.



*Monday, March 30*

## The Deceptions of the Devil

**Scripture:** “*Be sober-minded and alert. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*” (1 Peter 5:8)

**Reflection:** The devil often uses subtle lies rather than obvious attacks. Where do you feel “spiritually drowsy” or susceptible to the enemy’s whispers?

**Prayer:** Lord, awaken my spirit to the schemes of the enemy. Grant me the discernment to recognize Your truth and reject the lies of the tempter.



*Tuesday, March 31*

## The Pressure of the World

**Scripture:** “*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.*” (Romans 12:2)

**Reflection:** “The world” tempts us to find our identity in status, wealth, or approval. What worldly standard are you currently struggling to let go of?

**Prayer:** Father, help me to find my worth only in Your love and the work of Jesus. Strengthen me to stand firm when the world pressures me to follow its path.



*Wednesday, April 1*

## The Enemy Within

**Scripture:** *“But each one is tempted when by his own evil desires he is lured away and enticed.”* (James 1:14)

**Reflection:** Luther includes our sinful nature ("our flesh") as a source of temptation. How can you be more honest with God about the internal desires that pull you away from Him?

**Prayer:** Lord, forgive me for the selfish desires that rise up within my own heart. Tame my wayward will and align my heart with Your holy purposes.



*Maundy Thursday, April 2*

## Guarding Against False Belief

**Scripture:** *“Watch yourselves, so that you do not lose what we have worked for, but that you may be fully rewarded.”* (2 John 1:8)

**Reflection:** This petition specifically asks that we not be led into "false belief." Why is staying rooted in the Apostles' Creed and Scripture vital for avoiding spiritual deception?

**Prayer:** Holy Spirit, keep me anchored in the sound teaching of Your Word. Do not let me be tossed about by every new idea or false philosophy.



*Good Friday, April 3*

## Despair and Great Shame

**Scripture:** *“Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation without regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.”* (2 Corinthians 7:10)

**Reflection:** Luther warns against "despair and other great shame and vice." When you fail, do you turn toward God in repentance or away from Him in shame?

**Prayer:** Father, when I fall, do not let me sink into despair. Lift me up with the assurance of Your forgiveness and give me the strength to begin again.



*Saturday, April 4*

## The Final Victory

**Scripture:** *“And the Lord will rescue me from every evil action and bring me safely into His heavenly kingdom. To Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.”* (2 Timothy 4:18)

**Reflection:** We pray that "though they attack us, we would finally overcome and win the victory." How does the certainty of Christ's final victory change your perspective on today's battles?

**Prayer:** King Jesus, thank You for already defeating the powers of sin, death, and the devil. Help me to live this day in the confidence of Your triumph.

### THE SEVENTH PETITION

#### But deliver us from evil.

*What is this?* We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would deliver us from every kind of evil of body and soul, property and honor; and that finally, when our last hour comes, He would give us a blessed end and graciously take us from this valley of tears to Himself into heaven.

**Amen.**

*What is this?* I should be certain that these petitions are acceptable to our Father in heaven and that he hears them; for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way, and has promised that He will hear us. “Amen, Amen,” that is, “Yes, yes, it shall be so.”



*Easter Sunday, April 5*

### The Summary Prayer

**Scripture:** “*The LORD will guard you from all evil; He will preserve your soul.*” (Psalm 121:7)

**Reflection:** Luther says that here we pray that the Father would “deliver us from every kind of evil of body and soul.” Do you view God as a distant observer of your troubles, or as your active Rescuer?

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, I entrust my body, soul, and all things into Your hands today. Guard me from every harm that would seek to overwhelm my spirit or my health.



*Monday, April 6*

### Deliverance of the Body

**Scripture:** “*For he will deliver the needy who cry out and the afflicted who have no helper.*” (Psalm 72:12)

**Reflection:** God cares about your physical property and well-being. How can you practice “casting your cares” on Him regarding your home, job, or physical safety today?

**Prayer:** Lord, protect my household and my livelihood from the threats of this world. Thank You for being a shelter for the needy and a helper to the helpless.



*Tuesday, April 7*

### Deliverance of the Soul

**Scripture:** “*For You have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.*” (Psalm 116:8)

**Reflection:** The greatest “evil” is that which would separate us from God. In what ways do you need God to “deliver your eyes from tears” and your soul from the weight of grief or doubt?

**Prayer:** Father, protect my faith when the world feels dark and heavy. Keep my soul anchored in the hope of the Gospel, no matter what trials I face.



*Wednesday, April 8*  
**The Blessed End**

**Scripture:** *"For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain."* (Philippians 1:21)

**Reflection:** Luther explains we pray for a "blessed end" when God takes us "from this valley of tears to Himself." How does the promise of a peaceful death in Christ change how you live your life today?

**Prayer:** Lord, when my time comes, grant me a peaceful departure into Your presence. Let me face the end of this life with the confidence that I am moving from sorrow into eternal joy.



*Thursday, April 9*  
**Thine is the Kingdom**

**Scripture:** *"Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the splendor and the majesty, for everything in heaven and on earth belongs to You. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom, and You are exalted as head over all."* (1 Chronicles 29:11)

**Reflection:** The Doxology reminds us that we aren't praying to a weak God. How does acknowledging God's total "power and glory" boost your confidence that He will actually answer your prayers?

**Prayer:** Almighty King, I praise You because all authority in heaven and on earth belongs to You. I rest secure knowing that You have the power to accomplish all that You have promised.



*Friday, April 10*  
**The Eternal "Amen"**

**Scripture:** *"For all the promises of God are 'Yes' in Christ. And so through Him, our Amen' is spoken to the glory of God."* (2 Corinthians 1:20)

**Reflection:** "Amen" means "Yes, yes, it shall be so." When you finish your prayers, do you walk away with the "certainty" that God has heard you, or with lingering doubt?

**Prayer:** Father, I say "Amen" to Your Word and Your promises. Fill me with the certainty that You are listening and that You will act according to Your perfect love.



*Saturday, April 11*  
**Living the Lord's Prayer**

**Scripture:** *"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."* (Ephesians 3:20-21)

**Reflection:** You have now walked through the entire prayer Jesus taught us. How has this journey changed the way you address your "Dear Father" in heaven?

**Prayer:** Lord, thank You for the gift of prayer and the words of the Lord's Prayer. May this prayer be on my heart and my lips every day until I see You face to face.



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