



Lord, Teach Us to Pray

By Molly Loder and Katy Gifford

Part 1:

Teach us

The Lord's Prayer is one of the first prayers Christians learn. It is a lesson on prayer straight from our Lord. The precious special words are full of much more than nine memorized phrases. Through this two-part study of this perfect model of prayer (how to talk to God,) coupled with Martin Luther's "Our Father, Who from Heaven Above" (LSB 766), look for how God's will can be done in your life as He graciously provides for you.

Our Father who art in heaven ...

Our Father, who from heav'n above Bids all of us to live in love
As members of one family And pray to You in unity,
Teach us no thoughtless words to say But from our inmost hearts to pray.

Luther tells us to pray to our Father with "boldness and confidence".

What does Scripture say about our brothers and sisters in Christ when we call upon **our** Father?

Galatians 3:26 For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

We are brothers in sisters in Christ. When we pray to our Father in heaven, we can think not only of the relationship we have with Him but also those we have with the people He has placed in our lives. The simple word "our" makes a big difference as we humble ourselves to come to our Lord, not just for our own needs. We also intentionally think of those around us.

Hebrews 4:16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Imagine a small child running to their daddy to ask for a push on a swing, a cookie from the jar, or simply to be swept up in his strong arms. That is how we can go to our Father in prayer. We need not hide from Him, but rather jump into His arms to tell him about our day, our needs, our temptations, our transgressions, our joy at being His child.

Ephesians 4:6 One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Our God, the Creator of all, is the Father of each and every one of us. He connects us to each other. May we find peace in that and also the responsibility to share our daily bread as well as the good news of His redeeming love for us in Christ.

Our connection with others is through the Father. All of us are His children -- no matter our viewpoints or sins or concerns.

We have the responsibility and the honor of caring for God's family. What expectations are there for us to care for each other?

Romans 12:10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

Perhaps you have thought of the Greek word *Philos* as you read this verse. The love of caring, sharing, listening, holding, forgiving, and living together in peace. Note that this verse requires us to outdo each other in showing honor. We are not to love or give more, but to honor more by showing respect and cooperating with others as we strive to glorify our Father in heaven.

Philippians 2:4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests but also to the interests of others.

God needs us to be aware of the needs of others and as we "help and befriend" them. Often we think of giving to others as looking at their interests. A meal to a family new to town or with a newborn child, a visit to a friend in the hospital, or a donation to the local food bank are all looking out for others. Be mindful that others' interests, no matter what their life situation, may also need to help others. Serve the Lord alongside them. There is healing in serving.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

Take time to share a compliment. Take more time to share God's love and the news of His redeeming gift of redemption with others. A wise father once said, "If you're not helping, you're hurting". Saying nothing may be the same as tearing down the walls of love God asks us to build around His Church. Take time to build up each other in love, in truth, and with concern.

Galatians 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

So often we want to help others, but don't know how. Ask. Trust your friend, your brother or sister in Christ, to know what they need. At the same time, when asked allow others to pitch in and help you so that they too, can fulfill the law of Christ. (Editor's note: This is not to say that a surprise pan of lasagna is not a way to share in each other's burdens! Those surprises are good too!)

Faith Talk: What are the ways that your group has or could care for others inside and outside of your church?

1: Hallowed be Thy name

*Your name be hallowed. Help us, Lord, In purity to keep Your Word,
That to the glory of the Your name We walk before You free from blame.
Let no false teaching us pervert: All poor deluded souls convert.*

Jesus doesn't dwell on our sinfulness; He teaches us to focus on God's holiness as our source of confidence and comfort. His holiness begins with His holy name. (**Exodus 3:13-14, Isaiah 9:6, and John 14:6.**)

Exodus 3:13-14 Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴ God

said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

God's name is holy; therefore, what is He unwilling to do?

Isaiah 48:11 For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another.

God is not willing to give another glory. We are told He is a jealous God and expects all glory to be for Himself. Which He rightly deserves as the Creator of the world.

Therefore, what we are compelled to do?

Psalms 30:4 Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name.

Sing! In worship, in the car, in family devotions, and while mowing the lawn. Sing to the Lord. Give Him thanks.

Philippians 2:9-11 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

We are to bow before our God and confess that Jesus is our Lord and Savior. Why? So that He alone is glorified.

How can sinful humans, surrounded by such holiness, take comfort in His name?

Isaiah 43:25 "I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.

What a comfort to know that our sins and transgressions are forgotten. The Father only sees us as His forgiven children, washed in the blood of the Lamb.

Psalms 23:3 He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

God leads us where He needs us to be. Better yet, while leading us, He restores us. He makes us new.

Psalms 106:47 Save us, O LORD our God, and gather us from among the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name and glory in your praise.

We don't have to find God. He gathers us to Himself. He saves us so that we can thank and praise Him.

Psalm 33:21 For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.
God is worthy of our trust. We can know that He will not fail us.

2 Timothy 1:9 Who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,
What a comfort it is that God puts us where He needs us. He calls us to serve Him in ways that He has set aside for us for His purpose.

Revelation 1:5-6 And from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood ⁶ and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
We are loved by our Father. We are free to live as His children.

He takes our sin and gives us His righteousness for His name's sake and for our eternal good.

Faith Talk: In Baptism, God placed His holy name on you. What bearing His holy name mean in your daily life -- privately and corporately?

2: Thy Kingdom come.

*Your kingdom come. Guard Your domain And Your eternal righteous reign.
The Holy Ghost enrich our day With gifts attendant on our way.
Break Satan's pow'r, defeat his rage; Preserve your Church from age to age.*

Exposing certain materials to the elements may make them rust, tarnish, or fade. When God put His kingdom among sinful people, what happened? Truly? Nothing!
We can't ruin God's power, but what we show others may make His kingdom appear to be faded or tarnished. We are instructed to pray "Thy kingdom come" – not only in heaven but to be known to us now.

What is God's kingdom?

1 Timothy 1:17 The King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

God's kingdom is eternal. It does not end. We cannot fully fathom its greatness as it is not a physical kingdom, but one made up of His power and glory and His people.

Luke 12:31-32 Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. ³² "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

This is like a TV knife commercial, "But wait, there's more!" Not only do we receive God's kingdom, by God's grace, but we also receive blessing upon blessing. Why? By His good pleasure. God loves to give these blessings to us.

Luke 17: 20-21 Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, "The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, ²¹ nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you."

God's kingdom is eternal and exists now as well as in eternity. We can't see it, hear it, but in faith, we can know that it is.

What is present in God's kingdom now with us?

Psalms 51:11-12 Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. ¹²
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

God is present with us. Right now. With Him comes joy, salvation, and our willingness to serve, believe, and glorify our Lord

Isaiah 52:7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

God's kingdom brings us good news of happiness and peace.

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

We walk in the light as we are in His kingdom. We are chosen, royal, holy. We are God's people.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

By God's grace and in His kingdom we are blameless and completely sanctified.

As "kingdom children," we can see others as God does. All are sinful; all need a Savior. All are saved through Christ's blood-bought gift of redemption.

Faith Talk: What does it mean to live in God's kingdom now? How does grace fill our conversations, thoughts, and actions? Receiving and showing that same grace keeps the kingdom free from appearing corroded and decayed.

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

*Your gracious will on earth be done As it is done before Your throne,
That patiently we may obey Throughout our lives all that You say,
Curb flesh and blood and ev'ry ill That sets itself against Your will.*

God's people have always struggled to discern His will. We can find comfort in His Word. What God tell us about His timing and His will?

Matthew 6:8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

God knows what we need. Our want should be to align our will with His. Not His will with ours.

"Lord, make my will Your will." As God shows us the way, the decisions, and the tasks He would have us complete, we pray for strength to follow His will.

Isaiah 65:24 Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear.
God indeed listens to us as we pray. God answers us so that His will is accomplished.

Romans 8:27-28 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.
When we love God and want what He wants for us, our tasks do end up good. Sometimes not how we would have wanted, but when we seek God's will, we can still glorify Him for his many blessings,

He knows our needs, answering them *before we even ask*. His will is already being done. Why, then, do we pray for God's will to be done? **1 Thessalonians 5:17, 1 John 5:14.**

1 Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

1 John 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.

What, then, is God's will for us, His dear children?

John 6:38-40 For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰ For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."
God's will is for us to be raised on the last day to live eternally in Heaven.

1 Timothy 2:3-4 This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
God's will is for all people to know His truth and to be saved from sin and death.

Luke 23:42-43 And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³ And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."
God wills for us to be with Him now and in eternity.

Psalms 91:14-16 "Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name. ¹⁵ When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. ¹⁶ With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation."
Our Father wants us to hold on to Him and to know His name. He wants to bless us by delivering, protecting, answering, accompanying, rescuing, satisfying, and giving us salvation.

Jeremiah 29:10-14 "For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. ¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

The Lord wants us to be taken care of and to have hope for the future. He wants us to know He will hear us and He is ready for us to seek Him at all times.

God desires all to be saved. In this stanza, Luther's pleading is as faithfully and lovingly answered as our daily petitions. Ultimately, Christ's obedience – His perfect life, death, and resurrection – brought about the Father's will for us – eternal salvation through Christ alone.

Faith Talk: The Lord's Prayer is not just something we say; it's what we *live*. How does this change your thoughts, actions, and prayers?

4: Give us this day our daily bread.

*Give us this day our daily bread, And let us all be clothed and fed.
Save us from hardship, war, and strife; In plague and famine, spare our life,
That we in honest peace may live, To care and greed no entrance give.*

This petition and the explanation of the First Article of the Apostle's Creed go hand in hand. Our wonderful God gives us these gifts not just as a one and done, but each and every day. God gives these gifts to us not only because He created all people, but because He "still takes care of them."

What benefits do we receive when we ask our Father for daily bread?

Matthew 7:11 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

Parents give their children a place to live, clothes to wear, food to eat, and among other things – love. Our heavenly Father gives us even more. We know that He gives forgiveness, salvation, and a place in His family both here on earth and for eternity in heaven.

Matthew 6:31-32 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.

God certainly does give us all we need to eat, drink, and wear. Not only does He supply these basic needs, but He also knows **all** that we need.

Psalm 107:9 For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.

Notice that this verse does not say the hungry stomach. The hungry soul is filled. Our Lord fills us with all spiritual gifts as well as the physical needs we have. We also know that God has given us His Word and the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper to give us forgiveness of sins and increase our faith in Him.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. In every circumstance, including the trials of life we can give thanks to God. He allows us to be refined through the tough times. We have the opportunity to share our faith in Christ through these trials and glorify our Father.

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

We can give thanks for our abilities as well as our physical gifts. We are to thank God for what we do, what we can say, what we can share with others.

1 Timothy 6:6-8 But godliness with contentment is great gain, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.

Philippians 4:11-13 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹² I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

God gives us what we need for this life. He also gives us the mental ability to know what we need and what we want. Lord, help us to be content with your good gifts.

Psalm 23: 1-6

Psalms 23:1-6 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. ³ He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. ⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

God's guidance, protection, and provision are ever with us, whether we notice it or not. What a comfort to have his goodness and mercy following us around day after day. God gives us our basic needs to the point of them overflowing. How blessed we are.

In his book, *Our Way Home*, Daniel Paavola, shares that our voices enter Heaven when we pray. When we pray for **our** daily bread, we pray that not only we would have all we need to sustain our body and life, but that those around us would have what they need as well.

Faith Talk: When have you experienced a time when God used others to provide “daily bread” to you and your family (physically or spiritually).

Prayer:

Our Father, You have given us all we have, and You supply us with all we need to sustain a life that pleases You. Help us to be aware and thankful for all that we receive through Your mercy and grace. Help us to be good stewards of these bounteous gifts and to be mindful of the physical and spiritual needs of others. Send Your Holy Spirit to embolden us to share the love of Christ so that they may know of Your compassion, redemption, and the life eternal that awaits them. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Part 2:

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

*Forgive our sins, Lord, we implore, That they may trouble us no more;
We, too, will gladly those forgive Who hurt us be the way they live.
Help us in our community To serve each other willingly.*

Satisfied with all that we need for body and life, we turn to the needs of heart and soul. “Our heart is restless until it rests in you,” said St. Augustine. What makes us restless? **Romans 7:15.**

For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.
We are restless because we long to cease our sinful ways, but the desires of the flesh wage war against the desires placed in us through our baptism into life in Christ.

Through Christ’s death and resurrection, forgiveness over all our sins has been won once and for all. This victory brings eternal life (John 3:16), but what benefits does forgiveness bring us here on earth?

Colossians 2:13-14 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.
Our debt has been paid and the verdict is “not guilty.”

Hebrews 10:19-22 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

We have confidence as we approach God through prayer and worship, and our consciences are made clean.

Freed from a guilty conscience, we can live differently with others. God’s forgiveness never run out. We are blessed with forgiveness to spare and forgiveness to share. How is this accomplished?

Psalms 51:10-12 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.
With our hearts and spirits refreshed, we become both joyful and willing.

Psalms 130:3 If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.

1 Corinthians 12:26 If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

“Marking iniquities,” or keeping a tally of wrongdoing, causes all to suffer. But when we forgive, the body of Christ is mutually strengthened by the gift of grace.

2 Cor. 5:19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

Because we are reconciled to our loving God, we in turn can offer reconciliation to one another.

Forgiving as Christ has forgiven us is a tall order, but we are not left to do it alone. By the power of the Spirit, mutual forgiveness becomes a joy. In a world darkened by bitterness and revenge, forgiveness is the shining light that sets us apart as a city on a hill.

Faith Talk: When have you messed up and felt the grace of undeserved forgiveness from a fellow believer? How did it affect your relationship with him/her? With others?

6: And lead us not into temptation.

*Lead not into temptation, Lord, Where our grim foe and all his horde
Would vex our souls on ev'ry hand. Help us resist, help us to stand
Firm in the faith, a mighty host, Through comfort of the Holy Ghost.*

Our sinful minds and bodies are constantly bombarded with temptations that lead to sin. God is aware of these temptations and encourages us to talk to Him. By His guiding Word, we are able to know the way He would have us take.

Read the following passages together. Take a few minutes to mentally name the temptations you encounter.

James 1:13-15 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

Our temptations are not brought to us by God, but by our sinfulness and the sinful world we live in.

1 Peter 4:12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

We will have trials. God does not send these, but He does allow them so that our faith can be strengthened and He can be glorified. Perhaps we will be tempted to think God has left us when this happens. Know that isn't the case. God will never leave you. He will protect, perfect, and strengthen you.

The world seems to put comparisons on sins. Is stealing a car the same as sneaking a piece of candy from the store? Is telling a trusted friend of another's slippery situation not as bad as telling a room full of people? We know from Scripture: a sin is a sin.

What do these verses tell us about our sin?

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Everyone sins. We can't deny that. And just one sin separates us from the love of God.

Psalm 14:3 They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.

All humans are sinful. Not one has remained sinless, as hard as we may try. There will be sin.

2 Timothy 3:1-4 But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. ²For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, ⁴treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.

That is quite a list. No one can say that they haven't been guilty of the sins listed. Our sins are frequent, in a broad array of areas, and these sins cause difficulty.

Sin and the temptation to sin come in all shapes and sizes. It dresses up "in sheep's clothing" to snare us into thinking we are doing something wise. Our Lord does not lead us into temptation. We are perfectly capable of doing that for ourselves. To think that we don't sin is only fooling ourselves. There is good news! God gives forgiveness. There is deliverance from evil.

Faith Talk: Take some quiet moments to reflect on the temptations you face. Talk to the Lord. Seek His forgiveness. Close your quiet time by reading Psalm 40.

7: But deliver us from evil.

*From evil, Lord, deliver us; The times and days are perilous.
Redeem us from eternal death, And, when we yield our dying breath,
Console us, grant us calm release, And take our souls to You in peace.*

These end times are perilous. As temptations and distractions loom and anxiety threatens to overwhelm, can we even hope for relief? What does deliverance from evil look like? When can we expect it?

What do we learn about the ultimate deliverance?

1 Corinthians 15:54-57

Romans 8:1

We know, however, that there is still life to be lived here on this earth. While God's plan to rescue us from this sinful world and take us to live with Him in heaven offers comfort beyond compare, we pray, as Christ Himself prayed, that God would deliver us from evil even now. How do we see the promise of this deliverance in these verses?

1 Corinthians 15:54-57 When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." ⁵⁵ "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. God will not leave us in the grave, but we will rise victorious over death, having been given new, incorruptible bodies in which to dwell for eternity.

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

We are not condemned by the evil one but have been set free from all condemnation by our Savior!

We know, however, that there is still life to be lived here on this earth. While God's plan to rescue us from this sinful world and take us to live with Him in heaven offers comfort beyond compare, we pray, as Christ Himself prayed, that God would deliver us from evil even now. How do we see the promise of this deliverance in these verses?

Romans 8:31-34 ³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

God continues to give us all that we need to endure life while we are here on earth. Christ continues to intercede, to pray for our deliverance, forgiveness, and protection throughout our lives.

John 17:15 (Jesus said): "I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one." While evil will be present in this world, God's protection from evil is steadfast and reliable.

2 Corinthians 12:7-9 So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. ⁹But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Though we suffer many things in this life, God's grace is sufficient to see us through every trial.

How, then, shall we live? What comfort and instruction do we find in the following verses?

James 1:12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

Our task is to remain steadfast in the promises of God, no matter what evil may befall us, knowing we are never alone.

1 Peter 4:13 But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

As strange as it seems, we are called to rejoice in our sufferings. As we bear our crosses, we know that we are one step closer to the ultimate joyful day that is coming for all believers in Christ!

2 Corinthians 4:7-9 But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. ⁸We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.

God is in control, and our prayers remind us to trust Him. We can believe His promise that we will not be crushed or destroyed by the evil that surrounds us, or by the evil one who seeks our demise.

Even as we pray for deliverance, what are we able to do amid these evil days?

2 Corinthians 12:10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

We can choose to be content.

Psalms 4:8 In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.

We can rest, secure in God's promise of safety.

Job 1:21 And (Job) said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

We can bless the name of the Lord, no matter what circumstances we face.

Faith Walk: Think back on the last week or month. List the moments when you felt content, restful, or safe. Thank God for each moment you can name. Praise Him for delivering you from evil!

Conclusion: For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

*Amen, that is, so shall it be. Make strong our faith in You, that we
May doubt not but with trust believe That what we ask we shall receive.
Thus in Your name and at Your Word We say, "Amen, O hear us, Lord!"*

The conclusion to the Lord's Prayer was added to give more glory to our Father in Heaven. It is not found in the books of Matthew and Luke. Luther's Small Catechism reminds us that "God our Father is the king who bestows every good gift; has the power to grant our petitions; and is exalted as the one true God."

What words from the following verses show the power and glory that God truly holds.

1 Chronicles 29:11

1 Chronicles 29:11 Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all.

John 1:14

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Hebrews 1:3

Hebrews 1:3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Job 37:22

Job 37:22 Out of the north comes golden splendor; God is clothed with awesome majesty.

Psalm 145:5

[Psalms 145:5](#) On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

These represent just a few of numerous praises included in His Word. God wants us to remember the good, the blessings, and His love for us.

Amen. The final word. It is not an end, but a declaration: Yes, it shall be so! What God says we will get. He hears our prayers – the ones we memorize, the ones we compose in writing or verbally, and the pleas of our hearts when we can't even put words together. Our Lord supplies our needs and knows what is best for us before we realize we are in want. What a mighty God we have!

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19).

Faith Walk:

- Take time to pray the Lord's prayer, or even discuss it with someone close to you. Pray one petition at a time, and take time to pray specifics surrounding those words. (What daily bread has God given you today? From what evil has He delivered you?)
- *A Simple Way to Pray* is a quick read booklet written by Martin Luther, translated by LCMS President Matthew Harrison. This resource provides useful ideas for daily prayer and time in God's Word. (Available from CPH.)