

Our Father In Heaven

Sermon Series on the Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6: 5-13 Deuteronomy 32 :1-9 Romans 8:14-17

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The Lord's Prayer has probably always been a part of your life. If you grew up in the Church, you have heard it each week in worship; you learned it in Sunday School, you had to memorize it in Confirmation, and you have been saying it youth group, Bible studies, and meetings. You may use it in your home with your family and in your private devotions. If you grew up in the Church, then it's a prayer that has probably *always been* a part of your life.

It's an odd prayer, though, isn't it?

It has no mention of Jesus' Name, nor does it say anything about the Holy Spirit. It doesn't talk about the cross nor the Resurrection of Jesus. It has no mention of Baptism, the Word of God, nor Holy Communion; it doesn't use the words *grace* nor *faith*. By today's standards¹, it might seem to be lacking those things that we would normally look for in such an important prayer.

But what makes *the Lord's Prayer* different, unique, invaluable, and in a category all by itself is that **Jesus gave us this prayer**. That changes everything. *That makes the Lord's Prayer the most important prayer of all!*

Today we are beginning a series on *the Lord's Prayer*; it is a model prayer that Jesus taught His disciples to use, pray, and to base their own prayers on.

One of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray . . . Jesus said to them, "When you pray, say: "Our Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation." Luke 11:1-4 (Matt 6:9)

¹ "Today's Standards" means that because of the heresies that have invaded the Church and corrupted Jesus' Word over the past 2,000 years, we have to clarify our language and speak with more precision to accurately reflect the faith, even in our public prayers.

Jesus sets the context of the prayer with the first word: “**Our** Father”. Jesus is teaching that God is **both His Father and your Father**.

The way the Bible talks about the relationship between the Father and Jesus is that Jesus is the **Only Begotten Son**² of the Father, begotten from all eternity. Their relationship with each other within the Godhead of the Holy Trinity is revealed to us in terms of “Father” and “Son”³.

The way the Bible talks about the relationship between the Father and you is that you are **an adopted**⁴ **son or daughter** of the Father through faith in Jesus. God the Father sent His Only Begotten Son Jesus into the world to rescue you from sin and death and to bring you into His Family.

**Because of the Son of God,
you are now an adopted son or daughter of God.**

In **the Lord's Prayer**, Jesus, the Son of God, gives you **access** to God the Father in Heaven. **That is what prayer is at its core: its access.** Through faith in Christ, the Son of God, the Savior of the world, you can **approach** God in prayer. In Christ, you know God as your loving Heavenly Father who *cares* about every detail of your life.

Our Father, Who art in heaven

What does this mean?

God would hereby tenderly invite us to believe that **He is our true Father**, and that **we are His true children**, so that we may ask Him with all boldness and confidence, as children ask their dear father.

Martin Luther's [Small Catechism](#)

² This special term “only begotten” means Jesus has a Sonship that is **unique** (*Only*) and *Begotten* indicates that Jesus and the Father are of the **same substance**, the same essential Being. <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/1-john-4/#tab clarified/edited>

³ We believe, teach, and confess that the Son of God, although from eternity He has been a particular, distinct, entire divine person, and thus, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, true, essential, perfect God . . . The Solid Declaration of the Formula of Concord, VIII.6 The Person of Christ

⁴ Adoption is one of the metaphors used in the Bible to explain how Christians are brought into the family of God. Jesus came “that we might receive adoption to sonship” (Galatians 4:5), and “You received God’s Spirit when he adopted you as his own children” (Romans 8:15). This “adoption” happened at your Baptism, where God brought you into God’s family and He put His Name on you as you were baptized “In the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.”

In *the Lord's Prayer*, Jesus the Son of God, gives you **access** to God the Father --- who is in Heaven. You are invited to boldly approach the God of Heaven and Earth; you are welcome in His Presence.

In *the Lord's Prayer*, Jesus, the Son of God, gives you **access** to God, Who is your Father in Heaven --- the God of Heaven and Earth *loves you* and *cares* about *you* and the details of *your life*.

In *the Lord's Prayer*, when we pray “*Our Father Who art in Heaven*”; the word “Heaven” is **not** meant to put distance between the Father and you, but rather the word “heaven” is meant to remind you of His **majesty** and His **great power** as you turn to Him in prayer.

The God in Heaven is not only your *Father*, but He is the **all-powerful God** Who hears and answers your prayer. When you remember that God is in heaven, you realize His majesty, and you are overwhelmed that He knows you by name and loves you, and He invites you to come close and talk to Him. The words “*Our Father in Heaven*,” **draws you to God and invites you to pray.**

Our Father in Heaven is not only a statement of faith, but an invitation to prayer! Think about your prayers to God in 4 ways:

The words *Our Father in Heaven* draw you to God and invites you to pray as you **thank and praise** Him for Who He is and what He has done for you. You remember that He is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit --- and you rejoice in His love, grace and mercy to you.

I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever. Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. Psalm 145:1,3

In prayer, you are drawn to God, and you **thank and praise** for Who He is and what He has done for you.

The words *Our Father in Heaven* draw you to God and invites you to pray as you look to Him for **all good things**. We know, believe, and confess that all good gifts come from God; that everything we are and everything we have is a gift from God the Father's good hand!

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights James 1:17

In prayer, you are drawn to God, and you look to Him for **all good things**.

The words *Our Father in Heaven* draw you to God and invites you to pray as you turn to him in **times of trouble**. God promises that you will receive mercy, and find help in when you are in need; when you are facing problems, pain and suffering. God is your refuge and strength, an ever present help in times of trouble.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

In prayer, you are drawn to God, and you turn to Him in **times of trouble**.

The words *Our Father in Heaven* draw you to God and invites you to pray as you use your access with the Father in Heaven to **pray for others**. You intercede for others as if their needs are your needs. You ask the Father to help others in their time of need and shower them with all good things.

Therefore confess your sins to each other and **pray for** each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:17

In prayer, you are drawn to God, and you use your access with the Father in Heaven to **pray for others**.

Prayer is ACCESS – Access that you have as an *adopted* son or daughter of God through faith in Christ. You can boldly call God your Father and approach Him with your needs any time you want. And so, in faith, you draw near to God in prayer.

- ➡ In prayer you **thank and praise** God for Who He is and what he has done for you;
- ➡ in prayer, you **look to him for all good things** recognizing that everything you have and everything you are is a gift from His good hands
- ➡ in prayer, you **turn to him in times of trouble**, knowing that He is your refuge and strength, an ever present help in times of trouble
- ➡ in prayer, you **intercede for others** as if their needs are your needs.

In *the Lord's Prayer*, Jesus teaches us that you have been given access to God the Father. Today, know and believe that God is your Father in Heaven through faith in Jesus ... and be drawn into prayer. Amen!

Our Father who art in Heaven,

we thank you for the access to You that we have through prayer.

We thank Jesus for giving us the Lord's Prayer, and teaching us how to pray.

Help us to pray in faith,
trusting in your Son,
knowing that You love and care about us
as adopted sons and daughters.

Send Your Holy Spirit
to give us a hunger and thirst for prayer,

and grant us the peace and confidence
that comes from praying to You.

We pray this in Jesus' Name,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit,
Amen.

Deuteronomy 32:1-9

1 Listen, O heavens, and I will speak; hear, O earth, the words of my mouth. 2 Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants. 3 I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! 4 He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he. 5 They have acted corruptly toward him; to their shame they are no longer his children, but a warped and crooked generation. 6 Is this the way you repay the LORD, O foolish and unwise people? Is he not your Father, your Creator, who made you and formed you? 7 Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past. Ask your father and he will tell you, your elders, and they will explain to you. 8 When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, when he divided all mankind, he set up boundaries for the peoples according to the number of the sons of Israel. 9 For the LORD's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted inheritance.

Romans 8:14-17

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, ""Abba," Father." 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Matthew 6:5-13

Jesus said, "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. 6But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. 7And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. 8Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. 9"This, then, is how you should pray: " 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 10your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. 11Give us today our daily bread. 12Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.