

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 24, 2022

Because of Jesus, God Is Our Father Too

The Lord not only teaches us what to pray for but also how to pray. With the words of the Lord's Prayer, we are directed in confidence to the Lord. When doubts arise, we are reminded of how earthly fathers give good gifts to their children and are encouraged to believe that God will do so even more for us, because of our Savior Jesus Christ. It can be tempting to think of ourselves as the center of our prayers instead of the God who graciously invites us to pray and promises to hear and answer us. Today we are encouraged to learn from Jesus and to pray in His name to the Father, trusting that He will give us all good things and all things needful because of our Savior Jesus Christ.

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING HYMN: #779 - *[Come, My Soul, with Every Care](#)*

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 119:149*

Pastor: Hear my voice according to Your steadfast love;

People: **O LORD, according to Your justice give me life.**

A time for silent reflection.

Pastor: Let us confess our sins unto the Lord.

People: **I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion
in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: **Amen.**

+ **SERVICE of the WORD** +

PSALM *Psalm 138 (spoken responsively by verse)*

(When I called on the Lord, He answered me.)

¹I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;

**²I bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness,
for you have exalted above all things
your name and your word.**

³On the day I called, you answered me;
my strength of soul you increased.

**⁴All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O LORD,
for they have heard the words of your mouth,**

⁵and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD,
for great is the glory of the LORD.

**⁶For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly,
but the haughty he knows from afar.**

⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve my life;

you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies,
and your right hand delivers me.

**⁸The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.**

KYRIE *(p.204 in hymnal)*

People: **Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.**

SALUTATION and PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Merciful Father, whom Your Son has taught to call You and to pray, hear the prayers of Your people and grant us all good things in accordance with Your will, not for our sake but for the sake of the name of Christ, in whom we are made bold to pray; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Genesis 18:17–33*

(Abraham asks the Lord to spare Sodom and Gomorrah.)

¹⁷The LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, ¹⁸seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? ¹⁹For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring to Abraham what he has promised him." ²⁰Then the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, ²¹I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know."

²²So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD. ²³Then Abraham drew near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake."

²⁷Abraham answered and said, "Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking. Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." ²⁹Again he spoke to him and said, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." ³⁰Then he said, "Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." ³¹He said, "Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." ³²Then he said, "Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it." ³³And the LORD went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL *Romans 10:15b, 18b; Isaiah 52:7b, alt.*

Lector: How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news,

People: who publish peace and bring good news of salvation.

Lector: Their voice has gone out to all the earth,

People: and their words to the ends of the world.

EPISTLE *Colossians 2:6–15*

(Once we were dead in trespasses and sins, but God made us alive in Christ.)

⁶Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. ¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹²having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³And 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, ¹⁴by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Luke 11:9*

Alleluia. I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 11:1–13*

("Lord, teach us to pray.")

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the eleventh chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now 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." ²And he said to them, "When you pray, say:

"Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

³Give us each day our daily bread,

⁴and forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

And lead us not into temptation."

⁵And he said to them, "Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves, ⁶for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; ⁷and he will answer from within, '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'? ⁸I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. ⁹And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; ¹²or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY: #766 - [*Our Father, Who from Heaven Above*](#)

SERMON: *Because of Jesus, God Is Our Father Too*

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth

and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,

the only-begotten Son of God,

begotten of His Father before all worlds,

God of God, Light of Light,

**very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life + of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each petition:

Pastor: ... Lord, in Your mercy:

People: **hear our prayer.**

At conclusion:

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all those for whom we pray,
trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

**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.**

CLOSING PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray.
O Lord, let Your merciful ears be attentive to the prayers of Your servants,
and by Your Word and Spirit teach us how to pray that our petitions may
be pleasing before You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives
and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS and BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

People: Amen.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN: #712 – [*Seek Ye First*](#)

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