

The 10th Sunday after Pentecost

July 21 & 24, 2016

Zion Ev. Lutheran Church

Columbus, WI

Luke 11:1–13 (NIV)

Rev. Timothy M. Schwartz

11 One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”

2 He said to them, “When you pray, say:

“ ‘Father,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come.

3 Give us each day our daily bread.

4 Forgive us our sins,

for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.

And lead us not into temptation.’ ”

5 Then Jesus said to them, “Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; 6 a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.’ 7 And suppose the one inside answers, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.’

8 I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.

9 “So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

11 “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? 13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Loved ones,

For many Christians who grew up in a Lutheran home, the biggest word they ever heard is not from the movie “Mary Poppins.” “Superfragilisticexpialidocious” is only 30 letters long. Please. Many of you have heard a much bigger word many times and this is how it goes: “Comelordjesusbeourguestandleththesegiftstousbeblestamenogivethanksuntothelordforheisgoodandhismercyenduresforeveramen.” 116 letters if you count both “amen’s”. It’s called The Common Table Prayer and our earliest records indicate that it was brought to this country not by German Lutherans, but by German Moravians in the 1700’s.

But if you say it all in one breath, is it really praying? Prayer is communicating with God through Jesus Christ, from the heart, whether you memorize the words or make them up on the spot. Again, prayer is communicating with God through Jesus Christ, from the heart. Praying involves not just the mind and sometimes the mouth, but a heart of faith. In fact, it’s possible, isn’t it, to say the Lord’s Prayer without really praying. Prayer takes a heart that recognizes that prayer is a privilege paid for in blood. Really praying takes a heart that recognizes your weakness and your need for help that only God can give you. That is hard spiritual work, even if prayer is a simple thing to do. But, as we see from God’s Word today, he wants us to work at it.

Lots and lots. And as the Christian hears again what prayer is, I think you'll want the same thing. Just to...

PRAY

1. Learn from the Master...

It seems that everyone, at the time, knew that both Jesus and John the Baptizer as great preachers. We hear in the bible more than once that when Jesus preached *Mark 1:22 (NIV)* *22 The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law.* When John the Baptist preached, people were so impressed with that they figured he was one prophets from hundreds of years earlier had come back to life. Jesus and John were well-known as masters of the art of preaching.

But not everyone knew that they were masters at something else: praying. Just those close to them knew. Some of Jesus' disciples were former disciples of John. We hear that Jesus pulled all-nighters alone praying in private, and then would join up with this disciples. So, if you are one of John's former disciples and one of Jesus' current disciples and want to learn to pray, would you ask for a lesson? ***one of his said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."***

And what a lesson he taught them. He taught them that praying to God is not a business deal where you must argue your case: "I've been pretty good, will you give me what I want?" Prayer is more like a child speaking with his good father... that mixture of awe and of trust and of recognizing that no one else can help you like he can. He taught them to speak to God about your health and wealth and earthly needs, but first and most about spiritual needs – courage to believe and spread the gospel ("your kingdom come"), power to let go of others faults ("forgive us our sins as we forgive..."), hearts that don't take physical blessings for granted ("give us this day our daily bread").

I wonder how many times God has heard people say "Our Father" and in how many languages? "Pater Noster" in Latin. "Unser Vater" in German. "Padre nuestro" in Spanish. I'm guessing billions. How many times have you said it? In church, at home, in an emergency when you can think of nothing else to say? So engrained it is in our minds that I've seen it happen a few times as people near the end of their life – as their memory fades, their ability to respond to even their closest family goes away, they still remember the Lord's Prayer. A lifetime spent saying a memorized prayer and you can master saying it.

When Martin Luther once had this to say: "If you are able to speak one Lord's Prayer without any thoughts of your own, I will consider you a master. I cannot do it."¹

So, what does it take to master prayer? Jesus doesn't stop with simply giving us the perfect words to say, but the way to say them.

He told a story of a man who got a knock on the door in the middle of the night. A friend he was not expecting had been on the road and was too tired to go on. In bible times, getting caught unprepared for guests was like showing up for a potluck without bringing any food. Embarrassing, even rude. He went to his neighbor, a friend, and, I would imagine, went, not to the front door, but to the window. "Psst! Hey. Sorry to wake you. I've got big problem. Company. Can you get me three loaves of bread?"

¹ *What Luther Says*. page 1087 ©1959 St. Louis, Concordia Publishing House.

“What? Keep it down. My kids are sleeping right here with me. I’ve already locked the door.” And then the man thinks, “He wouldn’t try a stunt like this unless he really needed something.” “Alright. Wait here. Don’t make any sound.” And when he comes back he says, “You’re going to need more than three loaves. Here’s some wine, too. Whatever you need.”

Jesus’ point? PRAY shamelessly. PRAY boldly without worrying about manners or if you are saying the right words. PRAY without worrying if you’ve been good enough to deserve God’s attention. Don’t worry. You haven’t been. Anyone who holds a grudge against another person, anyone who doesn’t pull all nighters in prayer, anyone who takes God’s gifts for granted deserves to be ignored by God. But remember, prayer is not the payoff in some business deal that involves you being good, as if you get so many free minutes for being nice to people. The only business deal involved is a trade – Jesus perfect life for your sinful one. And the contract on that deal was signed, sealed and delivered when he walked out of a grave they laid him in after being crucified for your sins and mine. The privilege of praying is now yours.

So PRAY. Speak with God the Father because any good father loves listening to his children, and God the father can listen to everyone at the same time. PRAY because God commands it – with the words “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain,” God is reminding us that the name of Jesus is our ticket into his throne room the same way a lanyard with a VIP pass is your ticket backstage at a concert. He gave it to you to be used. PRAY because no one with sinful flesh can stand up to temptation alone – but by praying you enlist the help of the Holy Spirit to fight. *Mark 14:38 (NIV)38 Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.*”

God sent his Son Jesus to die and rise to save you and they sent the Holy Spirit to make sure that you believe it and are saved. Of course, they stand ready to help. You don’t need to be a master of prayer in order to pray. Just PRAY.

2...to Speak with the Father

And as you do, remember whom it is with you are speaking as you wait for an answer.

Jesus goes on – ask, and you’ll receive, seek and you’ll find, knock and the door will open. How do you know? Because just like our talking to God is like talking to a good father, the Father listens to us the way a good father listens to children. What would you think of a man whose child asks him for scrambled eggs in the morning and he puts a scorpion on his plate? Cruel! God is the opposite of cruel. He is love. If it doesn’t feel like it, it’s not because of God, but it might be because of us.

There is a story of a man who lived in a house during terrible storms that flooded his neighborhood. A man comes by in a truck with big wheels and says to the man, “Hop in, I’ll get you out of here before the flood comes.” “No thank you,” said the homeowner, the Lord will save me. As the floods get higher, a guy in a canoe comes along, “Hop in, I’ll get you out of here before the flood comes.” “No thank you,” said the homeowner, the Lord will save me. Finally, the man has to go up on his roof because the water is so high and along comes a helicopter. “Hop in, I’ll get you out of here before the flood comes.” “No thank you,” said the homeowner, the Lord will save me. Well, the man drown. He speaks to God in heaven, “Why didn’t you save me from the flood, God?” God said to him, “I sent you a monster-truck, a canoe, and a helicopter. What more did you want?”

Remember that when you pray, you are speaking with a Father who loves you and who absolutely knows what is best for you, even if you don't. He has the will and the power to make it happen, even if your will is different and you are weak.

Go ahead and ask for more income, but be ready to receive instead more wisdom to use what you have and ask for strength not to worry. "Give us this day our daily bread."

Go ahead and ask for that God would take away illness, but be ready to receive instead that God would strengthen you during your illness, thank him that he is working empathy in your heart for people in the same boat, be ready to speak of God those who take care of you. "Hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come."

Go ahead and ask for God to take a person out of your life, "Lead us not into temptation" but be ready to receive instead the strength to forgive. "Forgive us our sins as we forgive..."

If you have trouble mastering that, remember Jesus disciples did to. Just fold your hands then just start with the words of the master "Our Father...". Just PRAY. Amen.

Context: In Luke, after his visit with Mary and Martha, Jesus is with his disciples who ask him to teach them to pray.

Genesis 18 – Abraham prays earnestly for Sodom and Gomorrah. James 5:13-18 reminds us that praying is powerful and effective because God promises to answer.

Key Definition: Prayer

Translation and thoughts:

Luke 11:1–13 (UBS4)

¹Καὶ ἐγένετο ἐν τῷ εἶναι αὐτὸν ἐν τόπῳ τινὶ προσευχόμενον, ὡς ἐπαύσατο, εἶπέν τις τῶν μαθητῶν αὐτοῦ πρὸς αὐτόν, Κύριε, δίδαξον ἡμᾶς προσεύχεσθαι, καθὼς καὶ Ἰωάννης ἐδίδαξεν τοὺς μαθητὰς αὐτοῦ.

1 And it happened while he was in a certain place praying, as he paused, a certain one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray... Just like John taught his disciples.”

²εἶπεν δὲ αὐτοῖς, Ὅταν προσεύχησθε λέγετε, Πάτερ, ἁγιασθήτω τὸ ὄνομά σου· ἐλθέτω ἡ βασιλεία σου·

2 He said to them, whenever you pray, say “Father, let your name be regarded as holy. May your kingdom come.”

³τὸν ἄρτον ἡμῶν τὸν ἐπιούσιον δίδου ἡμῖν τὸ καθ’ ἡμέραν·

3 Give us our daily bread day by day.

John and Jesus both known for prayer – they were masters of it.

That is so opposite what people believe today – however you pray is fine. The way you pray is a matter of personal preference. There is no right or wrong way to pray, just as long as you do it. Nothing to master any more than lying down is something to master, it’s just something you do however you do it.

People rarely think of prayer as something to master.

Jesus, was.

Why did Jesus pray in the first place? Jehovah’s witnesses – why did he pray if he was already God?

- Because he loved you and is fulfilling the 2nd commandment
- Are you a master of prayer?
- Takes a love of something, not caring if you ever finish, being able to mentally get lost in it, tools that are good, not caring about anything else when you are doing it.
- Like mastering fishing.

Ὅταν προσεύχησθε : *whenever you pray*: Don’t need someone over you telling you what to do in order to do it.

ἁγιάζω^c: to feel reverence for or to honor as holy—‘to hallow, to regard as holy, to honor as holy.’ ἁγιασθήτω τὸ ὄνομά σου ‘hallowed be your name’ or ‘may your name be honored as holy’ Mt 6:9. In a number of languages it is impossible to employ an expression such as ‘your name’ as a reference for God himself. Therefore, it may be necessary to translate this expression in Mt 6:9 as ‘may you be revered as holy’ or even ‘may you be acknowledged as God.’²

- God’s name holy – people recognize you as God when they hear the name
- Kingdom – the gospel, and Judgment Day

ἐπιούσιος^a, ov: pertaining to recurring on a daily basis—‘daily, on each day.’³

Proverbs 30:7–9 (NIV)

⁷ “Two things I ask of you, LORD;

² Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). *Vol. 1: Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: Based on semantic domains* (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition.) (744–745). New York: United Bible Societies.

³ Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). *Vol. 1: Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: Based on semantic domains* (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition.) (651). New York: United Bible Societies.

⁴καὶ ἄφες ἡμῖν τὰς ἁμαρτίας ἡμῶν,
καὶ γὰρ αὐτοὶ ἀφίομεν παντὶ
ὀφείλοντι ἡμῖν· καὶ μὴ εἰσενέγκης
ἡμᾶς εἰς πειρασμόν.

4 and release us from our sins and here's why: we will forgive every debtor against us. Also, do not lead us into temptation.

⁵Καὶ εἶπεν πρὸς αὐτούς, Τίς ἐξ ὑμῶν
ἔξει φίλον καὶ πορεύσεται πρὸς
αὐτὸν μεσονυκτίου καὶ εἶπη αὐτῷ,
Φίλε, χρῆσόν μοι τρεῖς ἄρτους,
5 He also said to them: any one of you has a friend and comes to him in the middle of the night and says to him, "Friend, share three loaves of bread with me."

⁶ἐπειδὴ φίλος μου παρεγένετο ἐξ
ὁδοῦ πρὸς με καὶ οὐκ ἔχω ὃ
παραθήσω αὐτῷ·

6 Because my friend came to me while on the road I don't have anything to put before him.

⁷κάκεῖνος ἔσωθεν ἀποκριθεὶς εἶπη,
Μὴ μοι κόπους πάρεχε· ἤδη ἡ θύρα
κέκλεισται καὶ τὰ παιδιά μου μετ'
ἐμοῦ εἰς τὴν κοίτην εἰσίν· οὐ
δύναμαι ἀναστὰς δοῦναί σοι.

7 That man inside replies to him, "Don't bother me. The gate is already closed and my children are with me in the bed. I can't get up to give you anything."

do not refuse me before I die:

⁸ *Keep falsehood and lies far from me;
give me neither poverty nor riches,
but give me only my daily bread.*

⁹ *Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you
and say, 'Who is the LORD?'*

*Or I may become poor and steal,
and so dishonor the name of my God.*

γὰρ – really not sure how this works – sounds like payment for services rendered – sounds like cause and effect

- Power to forgive comes from God Ephesians 4:32 (NIV) ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.
- Recognition that we understand the consequences of entering a state of forgiveness – that we are committing ourselves to the struggle to forgive by being forgiven by God.
- Power may not be the power to stop the storm, but the inner peace to drive through it and protection while you do.
- Man in a flooding house – canoe, boat, helicopter – “God will rescue me.” He dies. “Why didn’t you rescue me?” “God: I sent you a canoe, a boat and a helicopter – what more did you want?” (save until the end)

A parable to illustrate

- Friend, not family, but not an angry adversary with whom you have to argue or convince to give good things.
- **Jesus has changed the nature of prayer from a business deal to a conversation with a Father.**
- Lord, you handle this because I can't.
- Lord, your will be done and help me to like it.
- How much to you pray?

Save social embarrassment – save me!

τὰ παιδιά μου μετ' ἐμοῦ εἰς τὴν κοίτην εἰσίν – picture here of the friend in need knocking at the window! Pssst! Help me out here!

⁸λέγω ὑμῖν, εἰ καὶ οὐ δώσει αὐτῷ ἀναστὰς διὰ τὸ εἶναι φίλον αὐτοῦ, διὰ γε τὴν ἀναίδειαν αὐτοῦ ἐγερθεὶς δώσει αὐτῷ ὅσων χρήζει.

8 I am telling you, even if he doesn't get up and give him something because he is a friend, he will get up and give him whatever he needs because of shamelessness.

⁹κἀγὼ ὑμῖν λέγω, αἰτεῖτε καὶ δοθήσεται ὑμῖν, ζητεῖτε καὶ εὕρήσετε, κρούετε καὶ ἀνοιγήσεται ὑμῖν.

9 I myself am telling you, ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and it will be open for you.

¹⁰πᾶς γὰρ ὁ αἰτῶν λαμβάνει καὶ ὁ ζητῶν εὕρισκει καὶ τῷ κρούοντι ἀνοιγ[ήσ]εται.

10 Every person who asks receives and everyone who seeks finds and to everyone who knocks the door opens.

¹¹τίνα δὲ ἐξ ὑμῶν τὸν πατέρα αἰτήσῃ ὁ υἱὸς ἰχθύνη, καὶ ἀντὶ ἰχθύος ὄφιν αὐτῷ ἐπιδώσῃ;

11 who of you a son asks his father for a fish and instead of a fish he gives him a snake?

¹²ἢ καὶ αἰτήσῃ ὄφιν, ἐπιδώσῃ αὐτῷ σκορπίον;

12 or if he asks for an egg will give him a scorpion?

¹³εἰ οὖν ὑμεῖς πονηροὶ ὑπάρχοντες οἴδατε δόματα ἀγαθὰ διδόναι τοῖς

- "No way. I'll wake everyone up! I can't help it if your friend got in late."
- Understand, showing hospitality is as important as having running water. If your friend said, my basement is flooding. I need your help.
- Two answers – yes, no, wait... I have something better in mind

ἀναίδεια, ας f: a lack of sensitivity to what is proper—'insolence, audacity, impudence, *shamelessness*.'⁴

- im·pu·dent adjective not showing due respect for another person; impertinent. "he could have strangled this impudent upstart" synonyms: impertinent, insolent, cheeky, cocky, brazen, bold, audacious;
- so dependant on the source for help that **he didn't care about manners**

ὕμῖν – Jesus speaking to all of us, together, not just as individual prayers.

- However you have to – pretend that God needs you to get his attention and pray.
- There is a lot that doesn't matter when we pray, but can.
- There is one thing that matters above all else, and that is whether or not someone is listening.

Why pray if God is just going to do what he wants!

A guarantee – God is your father...

Headline: son asks for fish, father gives him snake.

Boy dies of scorpion bite – says he asked father for an egg but dad thought it would be funny to scare him.

⁴ Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). *Vol. 1: Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: Based on semantic domains* (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition.) (627). New York: United Bible Societies.

τέκνοις ὑμῶν, πόσω μᾶλλον ὁ πατήρ [ὁ] ἐξ οὐρανοῦ δώσει πνεῦμα ἅγιον τοῖς αἰτοῦσιν αὐτόν.

13 If you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more with your father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?

Jesus doesn't waste any words – reminds us again to ask most desperately for the things of the Holy Spirit.

- Go ahead and ask for more income, but be ready to receive instead more wisdom to use what you have and ask for strength not to worry.
- Go ahead and ask for that God would take away illness, but be ready to receive instead that God would strengthen you during your illness, thank him that he is working empathy for people in the same boat, promise to help those who go through the same thing, and ask for strength that opportunities to praise you to the people around you.
- Go ahead and ask for God to take a person out of your life, but be ready to receive instead the strength to forgive. If you don't know how to do that, then just start with the words of the master "Our Father..."

Theme: PRAY!

Learn from the Master

Speak with Your Father

Justification Picture

Sanctification Examples:

Read:

- Ederseim:
 - Sudden, unthought of sense of imperative need, what seems an unreasonable request, and no way that the person being asked is in no way obligated to help.
 - We give God no reason to treat us as friends. We only call when we need him.
 - He who is within is a real friend,
 - The difficulty is not in the giving, but in giving then, under circumstances that make it seem impossible.

- Gave not just the three loaves, but as much as needed. (Ask for physical, expect spiritual too.)

You may have noticed that the words of the Lord's Prayer as we say it aren't all in this section of the bible. The version we say is a combination of the words that recorded here and in the gospel of Matthew along with an ancient song of praise that was added later. They say that repetition is the "mother of learning" and so it's possible that Jesus taught this prayer to them more than once. Jesus followers certainly have repeated it over the centuries.

Votums:

July 2 Thessalonians 2:16 May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, 17 encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.