

TEACH US TO *Pray*

An Order of Worship for the Home

February 28, 2021

This service is written for two speakers. Ideally, family members can speak and declare God's grace to one another following this format. For those who live alone, this worship outline can be followed with a brother or sister in Christ over the phone. You may call on a friend to fill this role, or your elder or pastor can worship with you by phone.

There is an "offering prayer" included in this outline. As we continue our Covid adjustments related to gathering, please continue to worship through giving. You can mail offering envelopes and checks to Calvary or visit www.calvaryslz.org to give online.

Invocation

Reader 1: We invite you, Father,
Reader 2: Teach us to pray.
Reader 1: We ask you, Jesus,
Reader 2: Teach us to pray.
Reader 1: We desire your presence, Holy Spirit,
Reader 2: Teach us to pray.
Reader 1: We need you, God...
Reader 2: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Reader 1: Teach us to pray.
Together: Amen.

Psalm 121

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From where does my help come?

² My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

³ He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.

⁴ Behold, he who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

⁵ The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade on your right hand.

⁶ The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.

⁷ The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.

⁸ The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.

Confession & Absolution

*Make sure each person present has opportunity to confess to a brother or sister in faith.
Go through both parts as many times as needed to accommodate all who are gathered.*

Christian Confessing: My prayers are weak and faltering. My thoughts waver and my words wander. Some days I enter prayer oblivious to my own sin and the holiness of the God I approach. Other days, I struggle to pray on account of the guilt I feel. I fail in the action of prayer. I fail in the attitude of prayer. My struggles in prayer reflect my struggles in all of life. I need forgiveness. I need faith. I need a Savior.

Christian Responding: Know for certain, that your God loves you. He meets your weak prayers with his strength. He meets your faltering prayers with the certainty of his promises. Jesus is your

Savior, and he grants you forgiveness. He sends his Holy Spirit to strengthen your faith. He invites you to pray to your Father in confidence. Your heavenly Father gives good gifts to his children. You are his child, and his gifts are yours.

Together: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer: The First Petition (Luther's Small Catechism)

Hallowed be Thy name.

What does this mean?

God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.

How is God's name kept holy?

God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!

Numbers 6:22-27

²² The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²³ "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them,

²⁴ The LORD bless you and keep you;

²⁵ the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

²⁶ the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

²⁷ "So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them."

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Message

Hallowed Be Thy Name

The first request in the Lord's Prayer has to do with God's name. What is God's name? The Lord's Prayer opens with a title, not a name. "Father" is a description of God's role in our lives. It's not his name. God revealed his name to Moses when he spoke to him from a burning bush. Do you remember the story?

¹³ 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.'" (Exodus 3:13-14)

I AM. That's significantly different from a name like Michael or Andrew or David. And then, God continues.

¹⁵ God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations. (Exodus 3:15)

God uses a name for himself three times in this short dialogue. He says this:

"I AM WHO I AM."

"I AM has sent me to you."

"Yahweh, the God of your fathers..."

That last one gets hidden in our English translations, yet it shows up throughout the Old Testament. When you see the LORD in all caps, the Hebrew behind the English translation is the name Yahweh.

God's name is I AM. God's name is Yahweh. In Hebrew these share the same root. Yahweh points to I AM. I AM helps us understand Yahweh. (Although, I'm using "understand" rather loosely here.)

I brought us to this story of God's revealed name because it lays a foundation. Most of you have heard this story before. You've heard that God's name is I AM. Yet, it's easy to think that this is the only story in the Old Testament which uses that name, and that's not true. Yahweh is used throughout the Old Testament, and it's essentially the same as I AM. God's personal name shows up over and over again as he speaks to his people. It's easy to miss it, because we have to pay attention to that all-caps printing of the LORD.

God's name is special. It is set apart. It is holy. It's significantly different from your name or mine. My name tells you something about who I am in the context of this world. God's name tells you something about what this world is in the context of God... Yahweh... I AM.

Luther has this in mind when he writes his explanation to the first petition of the Lord's Prayer.

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God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!

We're not asking for God's name to become holy. There may be pious sentiment behind that. We may wish for our culture and our world to recognize God's name as holy, but those petitions are yet to come. Here, we recognize the impossibility of God's name losing its holiness. His name cannot diminish, because he cannot diminish.

We do not make his name holy. His name makes us holy. This is the heart of our request in this line of the Lord's Prayer. Make us holy! Keep us holy! The wonderful truth is that we can ask this with confidence, because this is exactly what our God desires to do. His intent is to bring us into his holiness. His desire is to include you in his family. This is evident throughout the Bible, but let me show you one of the most beautiful settings where we see God's name making his people holy.

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²³ "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them,

²⁴ The LORD bless you and keep you;

²⁵ the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

²⁶ the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

²⁷ “So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them.” (Numbers 6:22-27)

I love that last sentence: “So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel...” The name by which all of creation is defined is the name placed on the people of God. Yahweh is that name. Yahweh gathers his children into his family as he calls them by his own name. Israel didn’t make a holy name for themselves. A holy name was placed on them.

“Hallowed be Thy name” is not something we offer to God. It’s what we need from him. That’s why even Luther’s explanation includes cries for help and protection.

“God’s name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven!”

I want you to recall the intended audience for Luther’s writing. We can read these words about “truth and purity” in teaching and associate them with church life. However, Luther wrote his Small Catechism for home use. God’s name is kept holy by how we talk about him throughout the week. For that matter, if his name is kept holy in our homes, his name will be used throughout the week. We will intentionally talk about him during our week at home.

This is one of the reasons for using FAITH5 at Calvary. As a church we want to have a faith conversation in every home every day. This is part of keeping God’s name holy among us.

Luther’s explanation includes a prayer for help. It also includes a cry for protection.

“But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God’s Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!”

At the first church I served we would hand out automobile decals in our new member class. They were stickers with our church logo. In fact, on the car I just sold I still had one on the rear window. When we gave them out, we told people we wanted them to be proud of the fact they were part of our church family. We also reminded them they would now represent us in the community. If they were going to put our logo on their car we had a simple request, “Please don’t make a mess of our name in this community.”

God has placed his holy name on you. That changes you. His name calls you out from the mess of this world. However, when your words, actions, or attitude tarnish that name you’re changed as well. Now, you’re not wearing the holy name of God. Your sin hasn’t changed God; it’s changed how you wear his name. Now, you wear a mockery of his name. This is why Luther includes the plea, “Protect us from this, heavenly Father!”

In ourselves we lack the strength to do good, so we pray, “Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven!” On our own, we mar and degrade the very name of God placed on us, so we pray, “Protect us from this, heavenly Father!”

Help and protection are found in the holy name of Yahweh. The God who revealed himself to Moses also rescued Israel from slavery in Egypt. He parted the seas and delivered them from their enemies. He drew near to them at Sinai – the same mount where he first revealed his name to Moses. There, he instructed Aaron as the high priest to place his revealed name on his people. There, he made his people holy. He provided deliverance, forgiveness, and an identity as his own children. They would reveal the holiness of I AM to the people around them. They would bear witness to the saving power of Yahweh. They were called to bless their neighbors as they had been blessed.

God did these things for Israel, not because of something they achieved. He didn’t become a rescuing, delivering, and saving God because they built up his name. He did what was intrinsic to his name, and by his name Israel received all these.

God still places his name on his people. He still calls people into his family. His name continues to make people holy. His name was placed on you in baptism.

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20)

The God who revealed himself to Moses, also rescued you from slavery to sin. He provided a path forward and delivered you from your enemies. He continues to draw near to you through the same means he used at your baptism. He speaks through his word. He is present among his people. In these relationships we continue to place his name on one another.

God bless you.

Jesus loves you.

God’s peace be with you.

The LORD be with you.

These are all blessings by which you place God’s holy name on one another.

You’re forgiven in the name of Jesus.

Your heavenly Father still loves you.

We speak these things to one another. We need this. Our families need this. Our world needs this. This is how God’s name is kept holy among us.

We gather in church to hear these things and receive these blessings. We go from here and share these blessings with one another. We go from here and share these blessings with the people in our lives.

We get better at this with practice, so we take on disciplines which help us practice blessing one another in our God’s name. FAITH5 is one such discipline. This can (and should) also happen in our Bible studies and small groups. Sometimes we get used to new phrases by writing them first, so we also write notes and send emails using God’s name to bless others.

By the name of Calvary we're a friendly group of neighbors. By the name of Yahweh you are the people of God. In the name of Calvary you might bring a smile to someone's face today. In the name of Jesus, you have opportunity to change their expression eternally.

The name of the LORD changes us. By the name of the LORD, we change one another. By that same name, our world changes too.

Hallowed be Thy name!
Amen

Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

Share prayer requests with one another. Pray over the requests shared, then pray the Lord's Prayer together.

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.

Offering Prayer

If you have an offering present as you worship, you may place your hands over it during the offering prayer.

Reader 1: With thankful hearts we receive from you, O Lord.
Reader 2: With thankful hearts we respond.
Reader 1: Receive our thanks and praise.
Reader 2: Receive our offerings.
Together: Receive us as your own. Amen.

Blessing (*Philippians 4:4-7*)

Reader 1: The Lord is at hand;

Reader 2: do not be anxious about anything,

Reader 1: but in everything by prayer and supplication

Reader 2: with thanksgiving let our requests be made known to God.

Reader 1: And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,

Reader 2: will guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus.

Together: Amen.

As applicable, please share this resource with others who would benefit. An electronic version is available at www.calvaryslz.org. We can also add friends to our mailing list if that is preferred.

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