

Dust Off Your Catechism

A Review of the Six Chief Parts of the Christian Faith



**The Third Chief Part:
The Lord's Prayer**

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Opening Hymn: 766

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy Name.
Thy kingdom come.
They 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.

The Lord's Prayer is found in the Bible in **Matthew 6:7-13**
and **Luke 11:1-4**.

The Conclusion

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

What does this mean? This means that I should be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven, and are heard by Him; for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us. Amen, amen, means, "yes, yes, it shall be so."

According to the Small Catechism above, what are the two reasons we should pray?

How do we know what we should pray for?

What would you say to someone who says, "I would never use a prayer that is recited or written down. Prayers should

come from your heart in your own words?"

Can you pray in your own words?

1] We have now heard what we must do and believe, in which things the best and happiest life consists. Now follows the third part, how we ought to pray. 2] For since we are so situated that no man can perfectly keep the Ten Commandments, even though he have begun to believe, and since the devil with all his power, together with the world and our own flesh, resists our endeavors, nothing is so necessary as that we should continually resort to the ear of God, call upon Him, and pray to Him, that He would give, preserve, and increase in us faith and the fulfilment of the Ten Commandments, and that He would remove everything that is in our way and opposes us therein. 3] But that we might know what and how to pray, our Lord Christ has Himself taught us both the mode and the words, as we shall see. (*The Large Catechism, The Lord's Prayer*)

What reasons are given above for us to pray?

Does praying come naturally?

How do we learn to pray?

27] But the distress which ought to concern us most, both as regards ourselves and every one, you will find abundantly set forth in the Lord's Prayer. Therefore it is to serve also to remind us of the same, that we

contemplate it and lay it to heart, lest we become remiss in prayer. For we all have enough that we lack, but the great want is that we do not feel nor see it. Therefore God also requires that you lament and plead such necessities and wants, not because He does not know them, but that you may kindle your heart to stronger and greater desires, and make wide and open your cloak to receive much. (*The Large Catechism, The Lord's Prayer*)

Some people think we should pray because we have to convince God of what we need. What does the Large Catechism say to that?

Philippians 4:6-7

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

According to St. Paul, what is the opposite of our being anxious?

Is the exact answer to what WE ask for the thing which brings us peace?

2 Corinthians 12:7-9

7 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for

you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Does the Lord always give us what we ask for?

What can we always be certain He will give us when we ask for it?

How does the Lord answer our prayers?

Resources for Prayers

Lutheran Service Book p.305ff.

The Lutheran Book of Prayer

The Treasury of Daily Prayer