

Gospel Lesson for the Week

July 29, 2007

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

Read [Luke 11:1-13](#)

Read also [Hosea 11:1-11](#); [Colossians 3:1-11](#) and [Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22](#)

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."

He said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial...."

"So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

Luke 11:1-4;9-10



We can be thankful to Luke who gives us an alternate version of the Lord's Prayer in this passage. When we pray in public worship, it is Matthew's version that we use. By turning here to Luke's account, we are almost startled by the slight changes. That's good; it makes us sit up and take notice. Sometimes familiarity breeds indifference and becomes a barrier to meaning. Take time now to read this passage as though you had never heard the words before. Meditate on it, reflect, and make the prayer your own.

Lord, Teach Us to Pray

Turning the Lord's Prayer into My Prayer

When I feel isolated, alone and lonely,
with impersonal dehumanizing forces at work around me,
Lord, remind me that personhood is at the center of creation,

Lord teach me to pray

"Father"

When I feel too closely bound to earth
and everything about me seems crass
and I've lost all sense of wholeness or holiness,

Lord teach me to pray

"Hallowed be your name"

When the forces of evil all about me,
and sometimes within me
seem on the rise and triumphant,

Lord, teach me to pray
"Thy Kingdom come."

When I become greedy and acquisitive
and seek to store possessions without end,
without a proper sense of gratitude
for all that you provide,

Lord teach me to pray,
"Give us each day our daily bread"

When I feel the pressure of my own sin,
goading me to vengeance,
beguiling me to lust,
subtly sliding me into conduct that I know is wrong,
(even those "harmless" peccadilloes
and those little white lies)

Lord teach me to pray,
"Forgive us our sins"

When, in selfrighteous indignation ,
I would breathe down fire on those who offend me,
or quietly, smugly pass judgement on them,

Lord teach me to pray
"Forgive...as we ourselves forgive ..."

When things get tough,
and I am tempted to take short cuts
in what I know to be your will;
when trouble assaults me and I seem to be yielding
to the pressures of the moment,

Lord, teach me to pray
"Do not bring us to the time of trial."

When in the midst
of each day's joys and pains and worries,
I would forget your claim upon my life,
help me to declare from deep within my heart

*"Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory
Forever!"*

Lord, teach me to pray. Amen.

--- rvc