

Proper 12/Tenth Sunday after Pentecost (Series C)

“Our Father, Who from Heaven Above” (*Lutheran Service Book* #766)

What better devotion could we have than to simply permit the Reformer to speak to us? (You may wish to sing the hymn stanzas.)

**Our Father who art in heaven.**

Our Father, who from heav'n above  
bids all of us to live in love  
as members of one family  
and pray to you in unity,  
teach us no thoughtless words to say  
but from our inmost hearts to pray.

*What does this mean?*

With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that he is our true Father and that we are his true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask him as dear children ask their dear father.

**Hallowed be thy name.**

Your name be hallowed, help us, Lord,  
in purity to keep your Word,  
that to the glory of your name  
we walk before you free from blame.  
Let no false teaching us pervert;  
all poor deluded souls convert

*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!

## **Thy kingdom come.**

Your kingdom come. Guard your domain  
and your eternal righteous reign.  
The Holy Ghost enrich our day  
with gifts attendant on our way.  
Break Satan's pow'r, defeat his rage;  
preserve your Church from age to age.

### *What does this mean?*

The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.

### *How does God's kingdom come?*

God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us his Holy Spirit, so that by his grace we believe his holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.

## **Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

Your gracious will on earth be done  
as it is done before your throne,  
that patiently we may obey  
throughout our lives all that you say.  
Curb flesh and blood and ev'ry ill  
that sets itself against your will.

### *What does this mean?*

The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

### *How is God's will done?*

God's will is done when he breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let his kingdom come; and when he strengthens and keeps us firm in his Word and faith until we die. This is his good and gracious will.

## **Give us this day our daily bread.**

Give us this day our daily bread,  
and let us all be clothed and fed.  
Save us from hardship, war, and strife;  
in plague and famine, spare our life,  
that we in honest peace may live,  
to care and greed no entrance give.

*What does this mean?*

God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

*What is meant by daily bread?*

Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

**And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

Forgive our sins, Lord, we implore,  
that they may trouble us no more;  
we, too will gladly those forgive  
who hurt us by the way they live.  
Help us in our community  
to serve each other willingly.

*What does this mean?*

We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that he would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

**And lead us not into temptation.**

Lead not into temptation, Lord,  
where our grim foe and all his horde  
would vex our souls on ev'ry hand.  
Help us resist, help us to stand  
firm in the faith, a mighty host,  
through comfort of the Holy Ghost.

*What does this mean?*

God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

**But deliver us from evil.**

From evil, Lord, deliver us;  
the times and days are perilous.  
Redeem us from eternal death,  
and, when we yield our dying breath,  
console us, grant us calm release,  
and take our souls to you in peace.

*What does this mean?*

We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to himself in heaven.

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

Amen, that is, so shall it be.  
Make strong our faith in you, that we  
may doubt not but with trust believe  
that what we ask we shall receive.  
Thus in your name and at your Word  
we say, "Amen, O hear us, Lord!"

*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."

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Barry Bobb  
Carmel IN

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Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546

English translation: stanzas 1 6, 8, 9 *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941

stanzas 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 F. Samuel Janzow, 1913-2001 Copyright

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Tune: VATER UNSER, attributed to Martin Luther

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