

## Lord's Prayer (Expanded)

*Our Father*, in order to awaken in us at the very beginning of our prayer that childlike reverence for and trust in you, which are the ground of our prayer, you have taught us in your Word to approach you as our Father through the Lord Jesus Christ. We are assured by this that you will not deny us what we ask in faith any more than our natural parents refuse us earthly things. And lest we begin to entertain an earthly thought of your heavenly Majesty, or fail to expect all things necessary for body and soul from your almighty power, you have instructed us to address you not only as Father, but as *our Father which art in heaven*. Give us grace, we pray, to draw near to you in reverence, and to put our whole trust in you, knowing that you are a Father who is always able and willing to provide for us, your children.

*Hallowed be thy name*. Cause us and all the world to worship you and to serve you acceptably, with reverence and godly fear. Help us to know you, to love you and to glorify you in all your works, in which your power, goodness, justice, mercy and truth shine forth. Teach us to order our lives — our thoughts, words, and deeds — that we might sanctify your glorious name. In all things may your name might be honored and praised on our account.

*Thy kingdom come*. Govern us, we pray, by your Word and Spirit. Help us submit ourselves to you always more and more. Perfect your work of grace in our souls. Preserve and increase your church now in this present time, and deliver all the kingdoms of this world from the tyranny of Satan and make them the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ. Destroy the works of the devil, every power that exalts itself against you, and all wicked devices formed against your Holy Word, until the fulness of your kingdom come, in which you will be all in all. And hasten, we pray, the coming of that glorious kingdom.

*Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven*. Grant, O Lord, that we and all men may renounce our own will, which is often contrary to your will. Teach us your wise and gracious will, which you have revealed to us only in Scripture, and cause us to know and to believe that it alone is good. May it be our delight to obey you as willingly and faithfully as the angels do in heaven. Grant that we may fulfill our office and calling to your glory.

*Give us this day our daily bread*; and make us both grateful and content. Help us to trust you to supply all our temporal needs, for you alone know what those needs are. Let us not lack for the meat that perishes, but provide for all our bodily needs so that we may acknowledge you to be the only fountain of all good. Teach us that neither our care nor labor, nor any of your gifts can profit us without your blessing. Help us to withdraw our trust from all creatures and place it in you alone.

*Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors*. We implore you, for the sake of Jesus' blood, which was shed for our redemption, not to impute to us miserable sinners our many transgressions, nor the evil that always cleaves to us. Instead, impress upon our cold hearts the depth of our sin that we might take refuge in nothing but the blood of our faithful Savior. And as we plead with you to forgive us, we also seek your grace to forgive those who have sinned against us.

*Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.* Keep us, O Lord, from temptation; and when we are tempted, deliver us from all evil and mischief, from sin, and from the crafts and assaults of the wicked one, who seeks our ruin. We confess to our shame that we are so weak that we cannot stand for a moment without your grace. And besides, our deadly enemies — the world, the flesh and the devil — assail us without ceasing. Be pleased, O Lord, to preserve and strengthen us by the power of your Holy Spirit, that we may make firm stand against them and not be overcome in this spiritual warfare, until finally complete victory is ours.

*For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.* Thine is the kingdom, an everlasting kingdom, a kingdom that rules over all; and your dominion also endures throughout all ages. You dispose the affairs all of your creatures. To you belongs the power both to punish your enemies and to bless and defend those who come to you in faith. And the glory of creation and redemption is yours. Indeed, we behold your glory in all that we have, in all that we do, and in all that we hope to enjoy: for of you, and through you, and to you, are all things. Because you are our King and have power over all things, we know that everything we ask of you, you are willing and able to give us for the sake of our Savior.

O Father, our hearts often deceive us, convincing us that we need things that are not for our good. But one thing that we never doubt is that our prayers will be heard by you. We are assured that you hear our prayers because your Son died for our sins, and we make our prayers in the glorious name of our only high priest, Jesus Christ. Therefore, with firm confidence of your goodwill toward us, we conclude our prayers in Jesus' name with a hearty *Amen*.