



WHEN  
YOU  
PRAY  
THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lenten Devotional  
March 25 - March 31

- \* Worship @ 9:15 a.m. (*contemporary praise, lower level*)  
10:30 a.m. (*blended traditional, sanctuary*)



Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven

Monday of Lent 3

March 25, 2019

**“Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” —  
Matthew 6:10**

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A stark line is drawn between the theology of glory and the theology of the cross. The theology of glory teaches its followers, in part, to tease out God’s will for their lives through perceived blessings of material wealth, physical health, so-called inner peace, and a variety of earthly means. The biblical theology of the cross, however, teaches that, regardless of the cares and worries of this life, in Christ’s passion, death all of the promises of God are “yes!” and “Amen!” It is through the cross that we know God’s will for our lives and are granted hope for life everlasting.

We learn through the third petition of the Lord’s Prayer that God’s will for our lives in this world isn’t always for rainbows and roses. There are crosses to bear. Extraordinary patience from the Lord Himself is required in times of grief, want, and plenty. The devil, the world, and our sinful flesh do not want the Word of the Lord to have free course, so we pray that the will of God be done among us that this may be so.

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***Dear Father in Heaven, throughout our days of pilgrimage in this life, grant us patience and peace through Your Word, and keep us in the true faith until we die. Amen.***

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven

Tuesday of Lent 3

March 26, 2019

**And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. And when he came to the place, he said to them, “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.” And he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.” And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. — Luke 22:39–43**

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In all its parts, the Lord’s Prayer is the pattern of the prayers of all Christians. Here in Jesus’ prayer on the Mount of Olives in the garden, we see the third petition prayed in the extreme. Christ, the Lamb of God, who is bearing the sins of the world in His body to the altar of His cross, prays for the Father’s will to be done in spite of the immense pain and suffering that’s awaiting Him in the days ahead. The will of the Christ and the will of the Father are not at odds. Both desire the salvation of mankind. Jesus is true God and true man. He knows He will feel the piercing, the stripes, the blows, and the nails. No sane human hates his body so much that he longs for pain and suffering.

What Christ does here in Gethsemane is what He does throughout His earthly ministry, keeps the Law perfectly for us. He beautifully shows not only that His perfect love for us, His neighbor, is greater than His love for His own body, but also that His fear, love, and trust in the Father’s will is greater than His love for His own body. This is credited to us by faith and is a great comfort and peace for us sinners who don’t always desire the will of the Father to be done.

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***Dear Father, we thank You that in Your divine goodness and mercy, You have seen fit to give us the gift of faith and through it, forgiveness, life, and salvation. Grant that we be kept from all that despise Your goodness and mercy. Amen.***

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven

## Wednesday of Lent 3

March 27, 2019

**Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.**

— Romans 12:2

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The will of the world is contrary to the will of God. God teaches this clearly many places in His Holy Word, such as I Corinthians where the wisdom and power of God for the salvation of mankind are contrasted with the wisdom and power of the world. To the world, which includes our fallen reason, the cross is foolish weakness, not the power and glory of God.

So it is God's good and gracious will that our minds be transformed through the proclamation of the Law and Gospel so that we love what God loves and hate what God hates. Thankfully, He doesn't leave it up to us to determine what is good, acceptable, and perfect in His eyes or what His will is – praise be to God! His will is revealed in His Word. His will is that we love Him above all things and our neighbors as ourselves. This we fail to do, so God, out of His fatherly, divine goodness provides a Savior to take our place under the Law and keep it for our sake.

The resulting pattern of the Christian life is one of confession and forgiveness created and sustained by rightly distinguishing the Law and the Gospel. Through this the dull mind of the Christian is sharpened and renewed. It is no great mystery how these things can be. God does not remain silent, and His Word cannot be broken. In this way, the testing and discerning which often lead to confusion and anger are undertaken in joy and freedom because our salvation is in no way tied to them.

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***Dear Father in Heaven, grant that Your Word renew our minds so that we love what is good, acceptable, and perfect according to Your holy will, and hate all that is contrary to it. Amen.***

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven

## Thursday of Lent 3

March 28, 2019

**First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. — 1 Timothy 2:1–4**

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In this beautifully comforting passage, the good and gracious will of God is revealed for all the world: God desires all to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. During Lent, what God requires for His will to be accomplished comes into sharp focus. There must be perfection and blood.

God is holy, and holiness cannot dwell with imperfection. For us to dwell with Him forever, we must be perfect as He is perfect. Because of the wicked disease of sin, this is impossible for us. So, “when the fullness of time, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoptions as sons.” (Galatians 4:4-5) Christ’s perfection and perfect keeping of the Law wasn’t for His benefit, but for ours. Christ’s righteousness and perfection are credited to us through faith. Now holy for Christ’s sake, we have a future waiting for us in the heavenly kingdom with the Holy Trinity.

The salvation of mankind also requires the shedding of blood. The wrath of God against sin must be poured out. It is for this purpose that Christ is the Lamb of God, pure and holy, who takes away the sin of the world. In His passion and death, Christ drinks the cup of wrath that was ours to drink, and He drinks it dry. Now, the fruit of His sacrifice is given at our altar through His same blood. We have peace with God which surpasses understanding. It is only through the proclamation of this truth and trust in these words that man is saved. This is God’s good and gracious will.

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***Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Jesus to take our place under the law and receive the punishment for our sins. Grant that Your Word, which proclaims this Gospel, not be taken from us. Amen.***

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven

## Friday of Lent 3

March 29, 2019

**Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. — Galatians 1:3–5**

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The will of the Father that we be turned from error's ways and be saved so that we dwell with Him forever also means that we are to be delivered from this present evil age. In this, God teaches two things: First, that this world is not our home and is not where our true treasure and inheritance lies. We're sojourners here who refuse to assimilate and so be conformed to the world. Secondly, it teaches us that this present age is evil. The age God speaks of through the Apostle are last days we live in even now since the ascension of Christ. It is a great temptation to be swayed by "the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches," and consider this world to still be very good as God declared it prior to sin. To succumb to this temptation would be to disbelieve the Word of God. No, it is as St. Paul says above and as the first stanza of the 12th century hymn, "The World is Very Evil," reminds us:

*The world is very evil, The times are waxing late;  
Be sober and keep vigil, The Judge is at the gate;  
The Judge that comes in mercy, The Judge that comes with might,  
To terminate the evil, To diadem the right.*

In the world to come, we will see clearly that the Lord was not holding back on us, but had provided the very best, most precious life for us through the forgiveness of our sins and in no other way.

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***Dear Father in heaven, protect us from the great shame and vice of false belief and despair, and grant that our hope and trust be in the deliverance won for us by the all-availing sacrifice of Your Son on the cross. Amen.***

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven

## Saturday of Lent 3

March 30, 2019

**For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.**

— 1 Thessalonians 4:3–8

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Many Christians spend many hours pining over very specific details about God's will for their lives that God doesn't provide in His holy Word. As the well-known hymn says, "Many spend their lives in fretting over trifles and in getting things that have no solid ground". This certainly isn't God's desire for His children. There is freedom in decisions such as whether to buy a certain house or not, which college to attend, or which pair of pants to wear. Of course, there is ample direction in the Bible for how Christians are to love their neighbors as themselves. There's even ample guidance in the Table of Duties in the Small Catechism, which provides points of meditation for pastors, laity, husbands, wives, children, employees, employers, and nearly every vocation imaginable.

God's word clearly reveals what is virtuous: Loving God and loving the neighbor. With this, mankind is given more than enough for a lifetime of prayer, repentance, struggle, and encouragement without having to delve into those things which are not revealed. It is man's unending game to create works hoped to be pleasing to God, but God is already pleased with us through faith in His Son. Christ is not only our justification and righteousness, He is also our sanctification. In Him, our consciences are freed to strive towards a life in this world lived in service towards those who need our mercy as our hope is in the life of the world to come through the mercy shown towards us.

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***Dear Heavenly Father, grant us peace through the forgiveness of our sins and remind us of the freedom we have to serve our neighbor as You've commanded. Amen.***



Give us this day our daily bread

## Sunday of Lent 4

March 31, 2019

**Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, “This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.” Therefore, when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone. — John 6:14–15**

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The fourth petition reminds us that our Triune God is the Giver of all good gifts. Our God makes and gives all that is necessary for human life to all people, both to the righteous and to the unrighteous.

Today’s Gospel reading is an example of Christ’s two natures. Our Lord does not imitate the miracle worked through Moses; He transcended Moses. While manna fell from the sky and needed to be baked, our Lord Jesus multiplied loaves and fish to feed thousands of men, women, and children. While the manna stank and bred maggots after only one day, the fragments of loaves were gathered and kept in twelve baskets. Jesus is the Prophet promised in Deuteronomy 18:15, speaking divine words among His brethren!

The people recognized the gifts Christ freely gives. They, like us, too often focused on the gift rather than the Giver. They wanted to make Jesus a king by force. They valued Christ for the temporal gifts which He gave. But they had no real understanding of Christ’s true mission. They had no idea what it means for Christ to be King.

Christ is no bread king. While He provides for our physical needs, He came not just to feed the body, but to save both body and soul through His death and resurrection. He spoke of Himself as true Food and Drink, as Living Bread, which we consume by faith through His Holy Word, which is both spirit and life. The people Moses fed with manna died; but he who eats Christ by faith shall live forever.

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***Lord Jesus Christ, we thank and praise You for providing our daily bread, just as You did for the five thousand. We ask that You would keep us from an obsession with earthly things, which pass away. Give us a hunger and thirst for You, the Living Bread of Heaven, and for Your Word, which is Spirit and life. Amen.***



## **“The Lord’s Prayer in the Lord’s Passion”**

Lenten Devotions

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