

## **PART III.**

### **The Lord's Prayer.**

#### **Of Prayer in General.**

##### **208. What is prayer?**

It is an act of worship wherein we with our hearts and lips bring our petitions before God and offer up praise and thanks to Him.

407) Ps. 19, 14. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer.

408) Ps. 10, 17. Lord, Thou hast heard the desire of the humble; Thou wilt prepare their heart; Thou wilt cause Thine ear to hear.

409) Is. 65,24. And it shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

410) Matt. 6, 7. When ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do; for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

See Scripture passages to Qu.28.

##### **209. What should induce us to pray?**

God's command and promise, as well as our own and our neighbor's need.

411) Ps. 27, 8. When Thou saidst, Seek ye My face, my heart said unto Thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek.

412) Matt. 7, 7. 8. Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

413) Ps. 145, 18. 19. The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him, to all that call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of them that fear Him" He also will hear their cry, and will save them.

414) Ps. 50, 15. Call upon Me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify Me.

##### **210. To whom should we pray?**

Only to the true God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, since to Him alone such honor is due, and He alone is able and willing to hear our prayer.

415) Matt. 4, 10. Thou shalt worship the Lord, thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.

416) Ps. 65, 2. O Thou that hearest prayer, unto Thee shall all flesh come.

417) Is. 63, 16. Doubtless Thou art our Father, though Abraham be ignorant of us, and Israel acknowledge us not. Thou, O Lord, art our Father, our Redeemer; Thy name is from everlasting.

##### **211. What should we ask of God in our prayers?**

Everything that tends to the glory of God and to our own and our neighbor's welfare, both spiritual and temporal blessings.

418) Phil. 4, 6. Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

419) Mark 11, 24. What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

## **212. What distinction should we observe in our prayers?**

Such spiritual blessings as are necessary for our salvation we should ask without condition' all other gifts, with the condition that God would grant them to us if they tend to His glory and our welfare.

420) Luke 11, 13. If ye, then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?

421) Luke 22, 42. Father, if Thou be willing, remove this cup from Me: nevertheless, not My will, but Thine, be done.

422) Matt. 8, 2. Lord, if Thou wilt, Thou canst make me clean.

423) 1 John 5, 14. This is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us.

## **213. How should we pray?**

In Jesus' name and with firm confidence.

424) John 16, 23. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in My name, He will give it you.

425) Matt. 21, 22. All things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

## **214. For whom should we pray?**

For ourselves and for all other men; but not for the dead.

426) 1 Tim, 2, 1. I exhort therefore that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving; of, thanks be made for all men,

427) Matt, 5, 44, Pray for them which despitefully' use you and persecute you.

428) Hebr. 9, 27. It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the Judgment.

B. H. Luke 18, 13. The publican. - Gen. 18,20-23.

Abraham. - Matt. 15, 22-28. The Syrophenician woman. - Luke 23, 34. Jesus. - Acts 7, 59. Stephen.

## **215. Where should we pray?**

Everywhere, and especially in the closet and in public worship.

429) 1 Tim. 2, 8. I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

430) Matt. 6, 6. Thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut' thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

431) Ps. 26, 12. In the congregations will I bless the Lord.

## **216. When should we pray?**

At all times, and especially in times of trouble.

1 Thess. 5,17. Pray without ceasing.

Is. 26, 16. Lord, in trouble, have they visited Thee; they poured out a prayer when Thy chastening' was upon them.

See Morning and Evening Prayers in Small Catechism.

## **217. Which of all prayers is the most excellent, the model prayer?**

The Lord's Prayer, "Our Father who art in heaven," etc.

Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy 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 for ever and ever. Amen.

**218. Into which parts may the Lord's Prayer be divided?**

The Introduction, the Seven Petitions, and the Conclusion.

**The Introduction.**

**219. Which is the Introduction?**

Our Father who art in heaven.

**220. What does this mean?**

God would by these words tenderly invite us to believe that He is our true Father, and that we are His true, children, so that we may with all boldness and confidence ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.

**221. Why would God have us accost Him "Father"?**

God would by this winning name encourage us to pray without fear or doubt.

434) 1 John 3,1. Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God.

435) Rom. 8, 15. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

436) Eph. 3, 14. 15. For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named.

**222. Why are we to say, "Our Father"?**

Because all believers are in Christ the children of one Father, and should, therefore, pray for and with each other.

437) Eph. 4, 6. One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

**223. Why do we add, "Who art in heaven"?**

To remember that our Father is Lord over all and able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think. Eph. 3, 20.

**224. What do we ask in the seven Petitions?**

In the first three Petitions we ask for spiritual blessings, in the Fourth Petition, for temporal gifts, and in the last three Petitions, for the averting of evil.

## **The First Petition.**

### **225. Which is the First Petition?**

Hallowed be Thy name.

### **226. What does this mean?**

God's name is indeed holy in itself; but we pray in this petition that it may be holy among us also.

### **227. How is this done?**

When the Word of God is taught in its ruth and purity, and we as the children of God also lead a holy life according to it. This grant us, dear Father in heaven. But he that teaches and lives otherwise than God's Word teaches, profanes the name of God among us. From this preserve us, Heavenly Father.

### **228. What do we ask of God in this Petition?**

Pure doctrine and holy life.

438) John 17, 17. Sanctify them through Thy truth; Thy Word is truth.

439) Matt. 5, 16. Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

### **229. From what do we ask Him to preserve us?**

From false doctrine and ungodly life.

440) Ezek. 22, 26. Her priests have violated My Law, and have profaned Mine holy things.

441) Rom. 2, 23. 24. Thou that makest thy boast of the Law, through breaking the Law dishonorest thou God. For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you.

### **230. How is God's name hallowed among us by pure doctrine and holy life?**

God's name is not thereby rendered holy, but held sacred among us and others, and thus His glory IS magnified on earth.

## **The Second Petition.**

### **Which is the Second Petition?**

Thy kingdom come.

### **232. What does this mean?**

The kingdom of God comes indeed without our prayer, of itself; but we pray in this petition that it may come unto us also.

### **233. How is this done?**

When our Heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead a godly life, here in time and hereafter in eternity.

### **234. What kingdom is here understood?**

Not the kingdom of power, but the kingdom of grace and the kingdom of glory.

**235. What do we ask in this Petition?**

We ask that God would graciously grant us true faith and godly life, that He would extend His kingdom of grace on earth, and hasten the advent of His kingdom of glory.

442) John 3, 5. Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

443) Matt. 9, 38. Pray ye therefore the' Lord of. the harvest that He will send forth laborers into His harvest.

444) Luke 12, 32. Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom., B. H. Acts 4, 24-30. (Mission prayer.)

**The Third Petition.**

**236. Which is the Third Petition?**

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

**237. What does this mean?**

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

**238. How is this done?**

When God breaks and hinders every evil counsel and will which would not let us hallow God's name nor let His kingdom come, such as the will of the devil, the world, and our flesh; but strengthens and preserves us steadfast in. His Word and faith unto our end. This is His gracious and good will.

**239. What Is the good and gracious will of God?**

All that He would do by us according to His promise, and all that we are to do, forbear, or suffer according to His good pleasure.

**240. What evil counsel and will Is opposed to this will of God?**

The will of the devil, the world, and our flesh.

445) 1 Pet. 5, 8. The devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

446) 1 John 2,15-17. Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof; but he that deeth the will of God abideth forever.

**241. What, then, do we here ask of God?**

That He would break and hinder such evil counsel and will, and strengthen and preserve us steadfast in His Word and faith, so that we, even as the angels in heaven, may gladly do His will, and in all sufferings remain faithful unto our end.

Rom. 16, 20. The God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly.

447) 1 Pet. 1,5. Ye are kept by the power through faith unto salvation. —

448) Phil. 1, 6. He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

## **The Fourth Petition.**

### **242. Which is the Fourth Petition?**

Give us this day our daily bread.

### **243. What does this mean?**

God gives daily bread indeed without our prayer, also to all the wicked; but we pray in this petition that He would lead us to know it, and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

### **244. What, then, is meant by "daily bread"?**

Everything that belongs to the support and wants of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, field, cattle, money, goods, a pious spouse, pious children, pious servants, pious and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, discipline, honor, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

### **245. Why do we Christians ask for daily bread, though God gives it even to all the wicked who do not ask it in prayer?**

In order that God would lead us to know it as His gift, so that we may receive it with thanksgiving.

449) Matt. 5, 45. He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

450) Ps. 145, 15. 16. The eyes of all wait upon Thee; and Thou givest them their meat in due season. Thou openest Thine hand and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.

B. H. Luke 5,1-7. Peter's draught of fishes.

### **246. Why do we say "our bread"?**

Because we should not be desirous of bread which would not honestly be coming to us, and because we should also pray for our neighbor and communicate unto him.

451) 2 Thess. 3, 10-12. If any would not work, neither should he eat. For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we command and. exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ that. with quietness they work and eat their own bread.

452) Is. 58, 7. Deal thy bread to the hungry.

### **247. Why do we say "daily" and "this day"?**

Because to have what we need each day should be sufficient unto us, and because it is foolish and heathenish to torture ourselves with care for the future.

453) Prov. 30, 7-9. Two things have I required of Thee; deny me them not before I die: Remove far from me vanity and lies; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me, lest I be full and deny Thee, and say, Who is the Lord? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.

454) 1 Tim. 6, 8. Having food and raiment, let us be therewith content.

455) Matt. 6, 33. 34. Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow; for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

456) Ps. 127,2. It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows ;  
for so He giveth His beloved sleep.

B. H. Luke 12, 15-21. The man whose ground had brought forth plentifully.

### **The Fifth Petition.**

#### **248. Which is the Fifth Petition?**

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

249. What does this mean?

We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look upon our sins, nor on their account deny our prayer; for we are worthy or none of the things for which we pray, neither have we deserved them; but that He would grant them all to us by grace; for we daily sin much and, indeed deserve nothing but punishment. So will we also heartily forgive and readily do good to those who sin against us.

#### **250. What do we ask in this Petition?**

That the Father in heaven would not look upon our sins, nor impute them unto us, but graciously, for Christ's sake, forgive them.

457) Luke 15, 21. Father, I have sinned against heaven and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

#### **251. What special cause have we for praying thus?**

We are worthy of none of the things for which we pray, neither have we deserved them; for we daily sin much and indeed deserve nothing but punishment.

458) Ps. 19, 12. Who can understand his errors? Cleanse Thou me from secret faults.

#### **252. What do we promise in grateful acknowledgment of the forgiveness received?**

We will also heartily forgive those who offend us, and readily do good to those who sin against us.

459) Matt. 5, 23. 24. Therefore, if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath aught against thee, leave there thy gift' before the altar and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and' then come and offer thy gift.

#### **253. Can anyone who will not forgive his neighbor obtain forgiveness of God?**

Never; he will rather, by saying the Fifth Petition, invoke upon himself the wrath of God.

460) Mark 11, 25. 26. When ye stand praying, forgive if ye have aught against any, that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

461) Matt. 5, 25. 26. Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him, lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison. Verily, I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence till thou hast. paid the uttermost farthing.

B. H. Matt. 18, 23-35. The wicked servant.

## **The Sixth Petition.**

### **254. Which is the Sixth Petition?**

And lead us not into temptation,

### **255. What does this mean?**

God indeed tempts no one; but we' pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us, so that the devil, the world, and our flesh may not deceive us, nor seduce us into misbelief, despair, and other great shame and vice; and though we be assailed by them, that still we may finally overcome, and obtain the victory.

### **256. How many kinds of temptations are there?**

Two kinds, temptation for good and temptation for evil,

### **257. Wherein does temptation for good consist?**

In this, that God tries His children in order to purify and strengthen their faith.

John 6, 5. 6. Jesus saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread that these may eat? And this He said to prove him; for He Himself knew what He would do.

B. H. Gen. 22, 1-19. Abraham. - Mark 7, 25-30. The Syrophenician woman.

### **258. Wherein does temptation for evil consist?**

In this, that the devil, the world, and our flesh would deceive or seduce us into misbelief, despair, and other great shame and vice.

462) James 1, 13. 14. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God; for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth He any man; but every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust and enticed.

463) 1 Pet. 5, 8. 9. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist steadfast in the faith.

464) Matt. 18, 6. 7. Whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in Me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe unto the world because of offenses! for it must needs be that offenses come; but woe to that man by whom the offense cometh!

465) Provo 1, 10. My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.

B. H. Gen. 3, 1-6. The temptation in Paradise.- Matt. 4, 1-11. Temptation of Christ. - John 13, 2. The devil. - Gen. 4, 13, and Matt. 27, 4. 5. Cain and Judas despairing. - Luke 22, 54. 55. Peter in the high priest's house.

### **259. What, then, do we ask In this Petition?**

That God would guard us, so that temptation may not come upon us, or, if He permit it to come, that He would strengthen and preserve us, so that we may finally overcome, and obtain the victory.

466) 1 Cor. 10, 13. God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able, but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.



467) Eph. 6, 13. Take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and, having done all, to stand.

### **The Seventh Petition**

#### **260. Which is the Seventh Petition?**

But deliver us from evil.

#### **261. What does this mean?**

We pray in this petition, as the sum "of all, that our Father in heaven would deliver us from every evil of body and soul, property and honor, . and finally, when our last hour has come, grant us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this vale of tears to Himself in heaven.

#### **262. What do we finally ask here?**

That God would entirely spare us from many evils, or that, when He has afflicted us with a cross, He would either take it from us, or help us to bear it, and turn it to our benefit and that He would finally, by a blessed end, wholly deliver us, from all evil.

468) Ps. 91, 10. There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

469) Acts 14, 22. We must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

470) Heb. 12, 6. Whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth.

471) Job 5,19. He shall deliver thee in six troubles; yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee.

472) 2 Tim. 4, 18. The Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto His heavenly kingdom.

473) Luke 2, 29-32. Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel.

474) Phil. 1,23. I have a desire to depart and to be with Christ, which is far better.

### **The Conclusion.**

#### **263. Which is the Conclusion of the Lord's Prayer?**

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### **264. What is meant by the word "Amen"?**

That I should be certain that these petitions are acceptable to our Father in heaven, and heard; for He Himself has commanded us so to pray, and has promised to hear us. Amen, Amen, that is, yea, yea, it shall be so.

#### **265. What do we by this Conclusion avow to our Heavenly Father?**

That He alone is the Lord and King with whom we should seek help; that He alone has the power to grant our petitions, and that, like- wise, all glory, honor, and praise accruing therefrom shall be His alone.

#### **266. Why may we be certain that our petitions are acceptable to Him, and heard?**

Because He Himself has commanded us so to pray, and has promised to hear us.

**267. Whence is it that many complain of their prayers being unheard?**

Because they ask foolish or hurtful things, or prescribe to God the time and manner when and how He should help; or because under 'the weight of tribulation they do not at once observe the helping hand of God.

Matt. 20, 20-23. Then came to Him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshiping Him, and desiring a certain thing of Him. And He said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto Him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on Thy right hand, and the other on the left, in Thy kingdom. But Jesus answered and said» Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto Him, We are able. And He saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand, and on My left, IS not Mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of My Father.

**268. Does, then, God really hear every proper prayer?**

Yes, but in His own manner and at His appointed time.

475) 2 Cor. 12, 9. My grace is sufficient for thee; for My strength is made perfect in weakness.

476) John 2,4. Mine hour is not yet come.

477) Is. 54, 7. 8. For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies I will gather thee. In a little wrath I hid My face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord, thy Redeemer.