

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

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March 10, 2021

7:00 PM

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

HYMN

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

ELW 759

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray,
take all my guilt away,
oh, let me from this day
be wholly thine!</p> <p>2 May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire;
as thou hast died for me,
oh, may my love to thee
pure, warm, and changeless be,
a living fire!</p> | <p>3 While life's dark maze I tread
and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day,
wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray
from thee aside.</p> <p>4 When ends life's transient dream,
when death's cold, sullen stream
shall o'er me roll;
blest Savior, then, in love
fear and distrust remove;
oh, bear me safe above,
a ransomed soul!</p> |
|---|--|

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-1887

Ⓟ In the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Ⓞ **Amen.**

Ⓟ The Fifth Petition of the Lord's Prayer is proof that our Christian life is not a practice in perfectionism.

Ⓞ **Rather, we live a life of dying and rising, living under the cross of Jesus Christ, in his continual forgiveness of our sins.**

Ⓟ We are brought down into a valley and up a mountain.

Ⓞ **It is simultaneously the lowest and the highest point of the prayer.**

Ⓟ In fact, as we pray each line of the Lord's Prayer, God brings us to an ever more humble place.

Ⓞ **God causes us to recognize what we lack.**

Ⓟ During this downward humbling descent,

Ⓞ **God also raises us up and reveals how we are given what we need.**

Ⓟ In order to call on God as our heavenly Father, we first receive God's tender invitation and encouragement to believe.

Ⓞ **We are humbled by the recognition that our prayer is only possible by the act of faith. God works in us, not by our own work or power. Jesus, in teaching us this prayer, lifts our head to our Father in heaven.**

Ⓟ To pray for God to forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us, is to pray for God to forgive us for all those times we fail to fear, love and trust in God.

Ⓞ **It is to put our hope in the gifts God has given us. We also pray that, having received God's forgiveness and all that we need by grace, we are free to forgive others.**

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **Our Father in heaven,**

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came and said to Jesus, *"Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?"* ²²Jesus said to him, *"Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times."* ²³*For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves.* ²⁴*When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him;* ²⁵*and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made.* ²⁶*So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.'* ²⁷*And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.* ²⁸*But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.'* ²⁹*Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.'* ³⁰*But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt.* ³¹*When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place.* ³²*Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.* ³³*Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?'* ³⁴*And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt.* ³⁵*So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."*

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

FROM MARTIN LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM (1529)

P In the Fifth Petition of the Lord's Prayer we pray:

C and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

P What does this mean? Answer:

C We pray in this petition that our heavenly Father may not look upon our sins, and on their account deny our prayers, for we neither merit nor deserve those things for which we pray. Although we sin daily and deserve nothing but punishment, we nevertheless pray that God may grant us all things by grace. And assuredly we on our part will heartily forgive and cheerfully do good to those who may sin against us.

SERMON

Pastor Duminy

HYMN

"Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive"

ELW 605

1 "Forgive our sins as we forgive,"
you taught us, Lord, to pray;
but you alone can grant us grace
to live the words we say.

3 In blazing light your cross reveals
the truth we dimly knew:
how trifling others' debts to us;
how great our debt to you!

2 How can your pardon reach and bless
the unforgiving heart
that broods on wrongs and will not let
old bitterness depart?

4 Lord, cleanse the depths within our
souls
and bid resentment cease;
then, by your mercy reconciled,
our lives will spread your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905-1987, alt.
Text © Oxford University Press 1969

(stand)

CLOSING PRAYERS

- P** Almighty God,
- C** you have called us, your servants, to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
- P** We give thanks to you, heavenly Father,
- C** through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have graciously protected us today. We ask you to forgive us all our sins, where we have done wrong, and graciously to protect us tonight. Into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels be with us, so that the wicked foe may have no power over us. Amen.
- P** We are again bold enough to pray as our Lord taught us:
- C** **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,
forever and ever. Amen.
- P** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.
- P** Almighty God, the Father, ✠ the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.
- C** Amen.

- 1 All praise to thee, my God, this night
for all the blessings of the light.
Keep me, oh, keep me, King of kings,
beneath thine own almighty wings.**
- 2 Forgive me, Lord, for thy dear Son,
the ill that I this day have done;
that with the world, myself, and thee,
I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.**
- 3 Teach me to live, that I may dread
the grave as little as my bed.
Teach me to die, that so I may
rise glorious at the awesome day.**
- 4 Oh, may my soul in thee repose,
and may sweet sleep mine eyelids close,
sleep that shall me more vig'rous make
to serve my God when I awake!**
- 5 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711, alt.

DISMISSAL

(sit)

POSTLUDE

✠ ✠ ✠

Spending Time (again!) with an Old Friend
Wednesdays, 7:00 PM
In-Person (please register by noon on Tuesday)
Live-Stream



Last year our midweek Lenten Worship was to give us an opportunity to visit an old friend: The Lord's Prayer. That was cut short by the pandemic. So again each week we will reflect on various petitions(s) of this great prayer gaining insights from Martin Luther's Small Catechism. The Pastors are looking forward to this special time and encourage you to come (or live-stream) and hopefully gain a new perspective and a new appreciation for the prayer we say most often.

Our Schedule will be as follows:

Wednesday, March 17

The Sixth Petition

“And lead us not into temptation.”

Wednesday, March 24

The Seventh Petition and the Conclusion

“But deliver us from evil. Amen.”

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