

Home Service for July 27, 2025

Welcome and Announcements

You may also find listening to some of your favorite hymns helpful in worship.

In our asking and in our seeking, let us find strength and growth from the root of our lives, Christ Jesus.

Call to Worship:

Before we even knock, Christ opens the doors and invites us in.

Before we even ask, God knows our every need.

Come to seek; come to pray; come to worship, for the Spirit has called us here.

Opening Prayer:

Sustaining God, grant us our basic needs. Where there is hunger, give us bread. Where there is homelessness, give us shelter. Where there is loneliness, give us friendship. Where we have wronged another, guide us into reconciliation. And where we have been wronged, lead us on the journey of forgiveness. Save in times of trial, and lead us in the Way of life. Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

Grow in our lives, Christ Jesus. Make our hearts larger with each gift of your grace. Make our spirits stronger with each moment of your mercy. As you fill our lives with your presence, fill our hearts with your love, that we might grow into your likeness. As we grow in your love, may we give our love and grace as freely as you have generously given your love to us. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

In the grace of Christ, we are connected to God's love, both now and forevermore. Amen.

Read Psalm 85

You, Lord, showed favor to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

²You forgave the iniquity of your people
and covered all their sins.^[b]

- ³ You set aside all your wrath
and turned from your fierce anger.
- ⁴ Restore us again, God our Savior,
and put away your displeasure toward us.
- ⁵ Will you be angry with us forever?
Will you prolong your anger through all generations?
- ⁶ Will you not revive us again,
that your people may rejoice in you?
- ⁷ Show us your unfailing love, Lord,
and grant us your salvation.
- ⁸ I will listen to what God the Lord says;
he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants—
but let them not turn to folly.
- ⁹ Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- ¹⁰ Love and faithfulness meet together;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.
- ¹¹ Faithfulness springs forth from the earth,
and righteousness looks down from heaven.
- ¹² The Lord will indeed give what is good,
and our land will yield its harvest.
- ¹³ Righteousness goes before him
and prepares the way for his steps.

Prayers of the People:

Lord, we are in the middle of the summer months. We looked forward to rest and recreation, but time is moving rapidly on and we still find ourselves stressed and weary. We need to slow down. We know this, but yet find this hard to do. We load ourselves up with activities, stresses, duties and then wonder how we will survive them. As you have found us before, Lord, find us again. Wrap your arms of compassion around us. Help us to savor the times that we have with each other. Make us keenly aware of the magnificence of this world. Draw us to the times of peace and rest. As we have brought names of loved ones to you for your healing mercies, remind us that we, too, stand in need of your healing love. Give us strength, courage and joy, that we might become disciples who are worthy of your kingdom, for we offer this prayer in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Lord's Prayer

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

Read the Lesson: Hosea 1:2-10

When the Lord began to speak through Hosea, the Lord said to him, “Go, marry a promiscuous woman and have children with her, for like an adulterous wife this land is guilty of unfaithfulness to the Lord.”³ So he married Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

⁴ Then the Lord said to Hosea, “Call him Jezreel, because I will soon punish the house of Jehu for the massacre at Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of Israel. ⁵ In that day I will break Israel’s bow in the Valley of Jezreel.”

⁶ Gomer conceived again and gave birth to a daughter. Then the Lord said to Hosea, “Call her Lo-Ruhamah (which means “not loved”), for I will no longer show love to Israel, that I should at all forgive them. ⁷ Yet I will show love to Judah; and I will save them—not by bow, sword or battle, or by horses and horsemen, but I, the Lord their God, will save them.”

⁸ After she had weaned Lo-Ruhamah, Gomer had another son. ⁹ Then the Lord said, “Call him Lo-Ammi (which means “not my people”), for you are not my people, and I am not your God.^[a]

¹⁰ “Yet the Israelites will be like the sand on the seashore, which cannot be measured or counted. In the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’ they will be called ‘children of the living God.’

Read the Epistle Lesson: Colossians 2:6-15

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces^[a] of this world rather than on Christ.

⁹ For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, ¹⁰ and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. ¹¹ In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human

hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh^[b] was put off when you were circumcised by^[c] Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

¹³ When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you^[d] alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, ¹⁴ having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.^[e]

Read the Gospel Lesson: Luke 11:1-13

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”

² He said to them, “When you pray, say:

“‘Father,^[a]

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come.^[b]

³ Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴ Forgive us our sins,

for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.^[c]

And lead us not into temptation.^[d]”

⁵ Then Jesus said to them, “Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶ a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.’ ⁷ And suppose the one inside answers, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.’ ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity^[e] he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.

⁹ “So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

¹¹ “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for^[f] a fish, will give him a snake instead? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Message

In the Gospel today Jesus invites us to come and learn about prayer. Jesus wants us to learn about speaking to God and what it means to have a prayer filled Christian life. First and foremost it is important for us to remember, as believers, we can talk to God. We can talk with him through prayer. We talk to him with our words of prayer, be it with words spoken aloud or with our inmost thoughts, for both are means of prayer. All this is because by God's grace we are saved. We can come before God and not be scared or frightened that He might not want to hear us, for God is always waiting for us. As children of God, we come to Him just as children who come to their earthly father. We come with joy and thanksgiving, requests and pleadings, troubles and sorrows. There is no topic that we cannot bring to God. What a powerful thing that we have, the power of prayer.

But have you noticed that there are some people that seem to have the "secret ingredients" to a good prayer life and can offer the most beautiful prayers, and do them right off the top of their head. Aren't you amazed how some people seem to just have it all together when they pray? They seem to know the right words. They seem to know what to pray about. They seem to be able to do it with such confidence. They have such confidence in the power of prayer. Frankly, they make prayer look easy and natural. We know that coming up with just the right prayer at just the right time, just is not that easy!

The life of a Christian should definitely be a life filled with prayer. But, unfortunately, many of us do not come naturally good at prayer. We are like the disciples in our Gospel reading for today. Notice the request they made Luke tells us "One of His disciples came up to Jesus and said 'Lord, teach us to pray.'" And, Jesus did.

So Jesus said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come." Jesus was telling them and us that we could come as children asking their father. We should come without fear. A simple request or hard request made no difference. Jesus starts with some of the spiritual things: "Hallowed be your name, your kingdom come." God's kingdom would come on the Last Day. The gospel of God's kingdom also comes at the present time. We should seek those spiritual things. Seek to live a holy life to glorify God's name. Seek to preach the Gospel that God's kingdom would come. Next: Give us each day our daily bread. This petition speaks about earthly things. By saying daily bread we remind ourselves God provides for us day in and day out. We are thankful for our daily bread.

A few more petitions the spiritual things we are to seek: "Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us." Jesus speaks about forgiveness, what we need to seek and find. Then we and the disciples would seek God's mercy and grace, and we would find it. "And lead us not into temptation." The Lord does that a couple of ways. He keeps temptation away for believers. He leads believers away from temptation, and he also leads believers to resist temptations. God never tempts anyone. This we must always remember. But God, our Father, keeps temptation away or leads us away from temptation or leads us to resist it. This is what he wants the everyone to pray for.

Jesus wants us to pray, coming to him day in and day out and ask and seek that we may find God's spiritual gifts. We know ourselves we have plenty of physical blessings and gifts. Of course, we always want a little bit more. What about our spiritual gifts, patience, kindness, gentleness, hope, joy and contentment? We have heard this list time and again. These are the spiritual things that God wants us to seek. In this world in which we live, the world is not going to offer these gifts to us like God does. The world says we can have happiness, but it has very little to back it up. Jesus teaches us to seek him. It is through our prayers, this is how we seek him: "Lord, make us content, patient, longsuffering." As you seek that, you will find it. We are always to seek God with all of our heart.

We know that the Lord says: "Learn how to pray. Take time to seek the Lord with all your heart." We should seek his gifts as he says here to make God's name holy, to preach God's gospel, to be thankful for daily bread, to be forgiving as God has forgiven us, and to help us to resist temptation, to avoid temptation as we seek God's will. Seek first his kingdom. When we seek out God's will and his spiritual gifts, then we want to be ready when He pours them out. Get your hearts ready. Our Father is coming with his unfailing love to shower his righteousness on you. We who are unrighteous and unloving are filled with God's righteousness and our sins are covered up. Our unloving hearts of stone are made into hearts of flesh because of God's love. The Lord Jesus teaches his disciples to pray. He teaches us to pray by saying: "Ask, it will be given you, seek and you will find." Now he says to knock and the door will be opened.

There is another lesson I do not want us to lose here from the Gospel lesson. I feel that Jesus is talking not only about being persistent in our prayers, but also praying for other people and their needs. That is a great blessing to remember that we are to pray for others. This is the lesson we are trying to follow with our prayers for the people every Sunday worship. That is everyone is praying for everybody else. Believing people praying for other people and with all persistence, boldness, and confidence makes a difference in our lives and theirs. As we listen we discover

who needs our prayers. In our conversations in church or day-to-day among the people whom we know and the people of this world, they tell us things if we listen. They tell us things that bother them, how they have hurts and sorrows, heartaches and illnesses. When we are alert, listening then we can pray for them, persistently, boldly, confidently knowing the Lord answers.

Jesus teaches his disciples to pray and teaches us to pray. We know the much of rest of God's word concerning praying. Pray without ceasing. The Lord has to encourage us to pray, because like the disciples we do not pray enough. So, we pray to the Lord asking Him so He can give and we receive. We pray to the Lord by seeking from Him so we can find, what He wants to give us in our life. We can find contentment in the midst of a world that is discontent. We pray for others so they can share in God's comfort and peace.

The Lord teaches us to pray, he promises to hear, and he is overjoyed to answer. As we ask and our Heavenly Father gives. We seek and find God's free spiritual gifts. We knock and the door is open by our heavenly Father who loves, cares for us and provides what we truly need. Amen.

Benediction:

Go now in the blessing and power of God who gives us life, that you may grow in faith and live as bearers of love and life everywhere you go. Amen.