

TRINITY NEWS

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost Teach us to Pray

According to Luke 11:1-4, one day when Jesus was at prayer in what may have been a favoured sacred place for him, his disciples asked him to teach them how to pray. They knew that John the Baptizer had taught his disciples to pray, though we are not told how they knew it. The imperative response of Jesus is to pray in this way:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.

Jesus' instruction about this prayer in the Sermon on the Mount is as follows:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread

And forgive our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one

-Matthew 6:9-13.

It will be apparent that the doxology that we use in the English text in the liturgy is not included here, though it is found in some ancient texts of Matthew's Gospel. One of the more recent forms follows:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done

On earth as 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,

Forever and ever. Amen.

A beautiful way of praying our own prayers is to use whatever form of the Lord's Prayer in English or your mother tongue that you are familiar with and leave out the central petitions, using the traditional form as follows or another memorized form:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.....

Insert your own prayers of intercession for family, friends, church community, nation and world, and yourself or other prayers.

Close with:

**For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Jesus expected all of his disciples to use this as a model prayer. It begins with praise and affirmation, leads into petition and ends by giving God the glory. We go back to the basic pattern that he taught us again and again. The English forms are composite texts from Matthew and Luke and they are interpretations in several places of Greek words in the Gospels, mindful of the underlying Aramaic used by Jesus. There is no singular definitive Lord's Prayer in the Gospels, and no absolute translation. But what we have is fantastic! When we are at peace, or in need or in perilous moments, we can do no better than go to the Lord's prayer and make it our own.

Bishop Arthur Jones

TO PLAN:

Wednesday.

- Bible Study, 10:00am

Thursday.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10am, Chapel

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Isaiah 66:10-16

Psalm 66

Galatians 6:14-18

Luke 10:1-12, 16-20