

Sermon  
Rev. Dr. Lang Yang

**“When You Pray, Say: “Father”**

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost  
St. Paul Lutheran Church – Caro, MI  
7-28-19

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God, our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Luke 11:2** *“He said to them, “When you pray, say: “‘Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come.”* (NIV) ‘This is the word of God.’ (Cross-reference – Matthew 6:9, Luke 11:1)

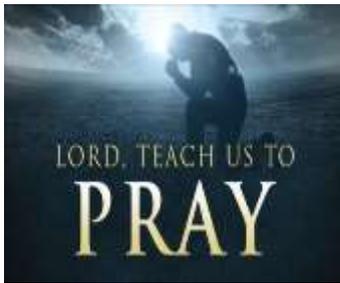
Illustration “Pray”

(Show praying hand)



What would you say, if I ask you to come up and stand in front of the congregation and pray? Some of you will be able to do it without any fear. Some of you will be so nervous that you will feel the sweat, your body will become hot, your speech will stutter, your head becomes dizziness, and you may able to say a short prayer. Some of you will refuse to prayer because you don’t know how to pray or even how to begin to pray. Are you afraid about praying? What word should you use? Too many time, when people ask us to pray, we rather have someone else to pray instead of us praying.

I. Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, I want to encourage all of you that you should not be afraid, or do not be shy about praying. Jesus disciples also face the same dilemma because they are not so sure how to pray. (Show Lord, teach us to pray)



The disciples asked Jesus on our Gospel Lesson today read, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.” (Luke 11:1) Jesus disciples asked Jesus how to pray. Jesus taught his disciple the Lord’s Prayer. Jesus taught his disciples this prayer because it is a prayer that covers all the basic of praying to God so that they may receive what they are asking. They are others petition in the Lord’s Prayer that we will not be covering today. We will focus on the introduction of the Lord’s Prayer, “*Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come.*” (Show our Father)



Luther Small Catechism writes, “*What does this mean? With these words, God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.*” (Luther Small Catechism, 2006, p. 180). (Show a father’s love)



Luther compares our relationship with God to the relationship we have with our earthly parents. Being a father of three daughters and two sons, I understand the deep heartfelt love that exists between parent and child. Parents often say that they would do anything to help their children or

protect their children. We all have heard stories of fathers and mothers going into a burning house to rescue a child. Their love for that child is so strong that they will risk their life without hesitating to save their son or daughter. (Show Its a boy and flower)



Those of you that are a new parent of having a new baby, the joy of having a new child is finally being call dad or mom. The father will pass out cigars, and the mother will receive flowers. Lots of congratulation take places. When the father and mother hold the child, a whisper said, “I will do anything for you, I will protect you, and will let no harm come to you. I love you so much.” (Show The Pursuit of Happiness)



The movies, “The Pursuit of Happiness - 2006” starring Will Smith and his real-life son Jaden Smith. The rousing, true-life story of a single dad who went from living on the streets to owning his brokerage firm. Set in early-'80s San Francisco, the film charts the hard times and eventual comeback of Chris Gardner, a suddenly single salesman who has custody of his son, but finds that providing for the two of them is a challenge in the increasingly unstable economic climate. Will Smith is the father who is struggling to keep his son in a safe environment. Whether they are staying

at the subway, he is spending the night in the bathroom by telling his son that they are just in a cave. It is a great example of a father love for his children. (Show not my kid)

- II. Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, we live in a world that we want to have someone who we can call “father.” (Show not my kid)

notMYkid

Because of the sinful nature that we humans have, too many men abandon and refuse to acknowledge their children. They refuse to help with child support while he lives in a lifestyle of self-indulgence while his children live a strenuous life without having someone to call “father.”

(Show God, my Father)



To those who have no one to call “father,” do not lose hope. You still have a loving Father in heaven. Our heavenly Father love for us so strong that he did not hesitate in sending his Son to be our Savior. His Son did not hesitate in giving up his life to save us. Our heavenly father considers us his adopted children, who are as dear to him as his own Son. That’s why God tenderly invites us to pray to him, and he answers our prayers by giving what is best for us. The Apostle Paul writes, “*He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with*

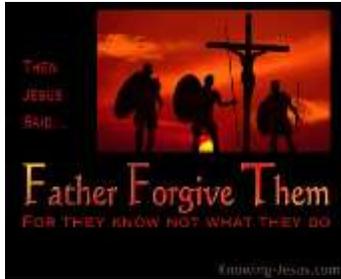
*him, graciously give us all things?*” (Romans 8:32). Our Father eagerly awaits and gladly hears our prayer. (Show stone, bread, fish, and snake)



Our Father in heaven is gracious, holy, and compassion. Whatever we ask in his name, he will give us the very best. Jesus said, “*Which of you if his*

son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 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 good gifts to those who ask him!" (Matthew 7:9-11) Our Father will give when we pray to him. (Show Father forgive them)

### III. What did Jesus say about the Father and Him?

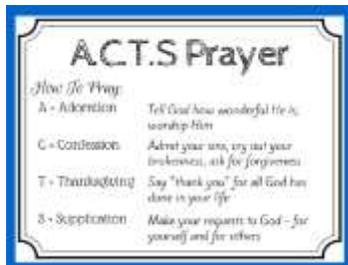


Jesus said, "I and the Father are one." (John 10:30) "In my Father's house are many rooms." (John 14:2). "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me..." (Matthew 26:39) While Jesus was hanging on the cross, He prays, "Father, forgive them..." (Lukas 23:34) Jesus last prayer, he said, "Father, into your hands, I commit my spirit..." (Luke 23:46) Jesus did everything for you and I because we are his children so that whatever we ask in his name, He promises to hear, listen, and answer our prayer. (Show Galatians 4:4-5)



The Apostle Paul letter to the Galatian writes, "But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons." (Galatians 4:4-5) We have hope, and this is why Jesus taught his disciples to pray, he teaches to begin with "Father..." Likewise, most Christians all over the world begin their prayer with "Father, Gracious Father, Our Heavenly Father, etc." All Christians believing Jesus as Lord and Savior have "one Lord, one faith, one baptism." Ephesians 4:5).

(Show ACTS)



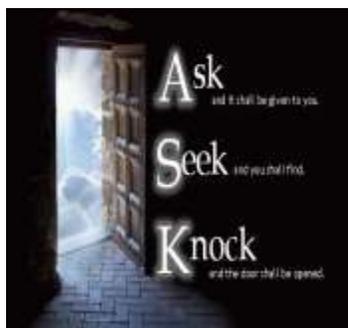
Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. Do not be afraid about praying. A good way to pray is using the word ACTS: **A - Adoration**, praising God name – Almighty God, Gracious Father, etc. **C – Confession** – I’m a sinful and ask for your forgiveness. **T – Thanksgiving** – I thank you for daily living for “food, shelter, health, etc.” and **S – Supplication** – I pray for my family, friend, and their needs, etc.

(Show Five Fingers Prayer)



One of the easiest ways to remember to pray is the Five Finger Prayers. Fold your hands: **Thumb** - Family and Friend, **Index** – Teacher, **Middle** – Leaders, **Ring** – Sick and Poor, **Little Finger** – you.

(Show Ask, Seek, Knock)



Jesus said, "When you pray, say: "Father." We are asking our "Father" who live in heaven to take care of us. Jesus said, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened." (Matthew 7:7-8) "When you pray, say: "Father" (Luke 11.2) so that our heavenly Father may give you whatever you ask of God. Amen. Now may the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your heart and mind in Christ Jesus. Amen.