
*Mondovi: Our Savior's, Gilmanton & Montana: Salem United Methodist Churches
7.27.2025, 7th Sunday after Pentecost, Rev. Hyuntae Kim, Ph.D.*

Praying into the Father's Abundance

Luke 11:1-13

Let us pray: Father, thank You for inviting us to the feast of Your Word. As we receive today's message, may we eat and drink of Christ, the true bread from heaven, and more deeply experience the fullness of God within us. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

To help our prayers grow and our communion with the Lord deepen, it is good to apply Scripture to our prayers. One of the best ways to do this is to pray using the Lord's Prayer. Just as in the story of Martha and Mary, when we fellowship with the Lord through His Word, we begin to wonder about the prayers Christ is praying within us as our intercessor. The Lord's Prayer contains the core principles of how Jesus prays. Let us consider how we should pray.

First, we begin by calling God "Father." We speak to Him as we would to our father. A father is someone who gives life. God is the Father who gives life and the riches of heaven.

Second, we pray that His name would be hallowed. Although we bear the name of the Lord, we often do not fully grasp the richness of that name. That name is Jesus. It is the name by which we are saved. In that name are His character, power, and holiness. When we call on the name of the Lord Jesus, His person enters into us and works within us.

There was a non-believing elderly woman with dementia. After eating a meal, she would often accuse her daughter-in-law of not feeding her and would speak harshly to her. But the daughter-in-law shared Jesus with her and encouraged her to say the name of Jesus whenever she spoke. The elderly woman began to end every sentence with "Jesus." About three years later, one day she suddenly became completely clear-minded and said to her daughter-in-law, "Dear, a demon just left me." After that, she lived peacefully, continued in the faith for about a year, and then went to be with the Lord.

Third, we seek the kingdom. This means we are asking for God's kingdom to come and rule over our bodies, minds, homes, workplaces, and every part of our lives.

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When we seek God's kingdom, it will surely come. The kingdom of God is where God reigns as King and His will is done. When His kingdom comes to us, we no longer live by the principles of the world, but align our lives with His will. The will of the Father is that all people would encounter His Son, Jesus Christ, and live with Him. That is the purpose for which we live.

Fourth, we ask for our daily bread. This is the heavenly bread given to us each day, like manna—it is Christ Himself. Our inner being can partake of this bread of heaven daily through the Word. Not only for ourselves, but also for the family and friends God has placed in our lives, we must partake of Christ, the Bread of Life. In the following parable, Jesus teaches that when a hungry friend comes at midnight, we can boldly ask the Father for bread, and we will receive it.

Fifth, we ask for forgiveness. "Forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us." When we get to this part of the prayer, we often feel a bit convicted. We may think, "I haven't fully forgiven yet, and I'm not sure I can." However, the reason we can confess this is not because of our own resolve, but because we believe in the promise that our Lord—the Mediator who brings peace—will fulfill it. Prayer requires faith. Even if we have not yet fully forgiven someone, when we say in faith, "Father, I forgive everyone who is indebted to me," forgiveness is activated within us.

Sixth, when we pray "Lead us not into temptation," we are asking for faith. The "temptation" here can refer to those times of hardship when we begin to doubt whether God is truly with us, and we grumble against Him. This is what the Israelites did in the wilderness at Massah and Meribah when they had no water—they tested God, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?" They were testing God's patience. So this prayer is asking that even when we face trials, our faith would not be shaken. When we go through affliction in life, we must believe that God is using it to refine us and make us strong warriors of faith.

Jesus assures us that the Lord's Prayer will certainly be answered, and He expands our faith in prayer through the parable of the three friends. This parable teaches us to pray with boldness—even shamelessness—before God.

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Within this parable, as with all of Scripture, Christ is hidden. The friend who goes to ask for bread is Christ Himself. The friend arriving at midnight represents us—we come to Christ in the dark night of life. As Jesus declares in John 5, He does nothing on His own but receives everything from the Father. He brings to us what He receives from God.

Jesus, who is of the same essence with the Father, is like a close friend. He alone has the right to stand before God with holy boldness. So He goes to the Father on our behalf and receives three loaves of bread. These three loaves represent the Trinity's bread, the fullness of heaven, the life of the resurrection, and faith, hope, and love.

Why is He able to be so bold—so shameless—before the Father? It's because He *is* righteousness itself. He is one with the Father, His closest friend. He has fulfilled all the will of the Father, and it is His divine commission to do this very thing. When a hungry traveler arrives, it is His job to go to the Father and bring bread—no questions asked. That's what He was sent to do, and amazingly, that bold, shameless one—Christ Himself—dwells within us.

Now that we are united with Christ, we share in the ministry of that friend. God sends someone to us at midnight. For example, our children are like the friend God has sent to us in the dark night of life. Likewise, neighbors and friends in need are “midnight visitors” sent by God. Though we ourselves do not have the bread to feed them, we can go with Christ to the Father and receive the bread of faith, hope, and love, and share it.

In verses 9–10, Jesus says, *“And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.”* In this, He speaks with divine authority: *“I tell you.”* It means, “The reason asking leads to receiving, seeking leads to finding, and knocking leads to opening is because *I* will give to you.” When we knock on the Father's door, Jesus is knocking with us—and that is why it opens. In truth, the fullness of the Father dwells in Christ.

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In verse 11, Jesus says, *“What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?”* The Father gives us faith, hope, and love—never a serpent or a scorpion.

Then in verse 13, the Lord says, *“If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”* The same Lord who began the Lord's Prayer with “Father” now promises that our heavenly Father will surely give the Holy Spirit to those who ask. Why the Holy Spirit? Because *in the Spirit of God is contained all the fullness of God.*

The words of Jesus are covenant promises, sealed by His own blood. That's why we can confidently come before the Father each day and ask for the bread of hope, love, and faith, and the Father will pour out the Holy Spirit, in whom all His fullness dwells. Amen.

Let us pray: God our Father, who gives the very best to His children, thank You for allowing us to share in the abundance of Your house through Christ. Yet we confess the unbelief that led us to live by our own strength. Help us to remain in Your Word, where You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, supply us with the bread of life in every circumstance. Grant us bold and faithful prayer that leads us into the Father's house with Jesus, so that we may experience Your marvelous provision each day, and may the bread of life abound in us—not only to nourish ourselves but to feed others as well. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our true Friend. Amen.