

**Willow River Parish: Clear Lake, Deer Park, and Faith Family**

**Title: The Prayer Jesus Taught Us**

**Lesson: Luke 11:1-13 NRSV**

*11 He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”<sup>2</sup> So he said to them, “When you pray, say:*

*Father, may your name be revered as holy.*

*May your kingdom come.*

<sup>3</sup> *Give us each day our daily bread.*

<sup>4</sup> *And forgive us our sins,*

*for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.*

*And do not bring us to the time of trial.”*

<sup>5</sup> *And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, <sup>6</sup>for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’<sup>7</sup> And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’<sup>8</sup> I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.*

<sup>9</sup> *“So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.<sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.<sup>11</sup> Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish?<sup>12</sup> Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion?<sup>13</sup> 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!”*

Friends, do you like to pray? How often do you pray? Every day? Once a week? Once a month? If so, how long do you pray?

Today's text is about the Lord's Prayer, which all of us know well. Even those who don't pray often are familiar with the Lord's prayer. Based on the prayer Jesus taught his disciples in the Gospels of Matthew and

Luke, the Lord's Prayer that is so familiar to us today was made. I'd like to invite all of you to read Luke 11:1: "He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." Jesus and his disciples were all Jews. At the time of Jesus, Jewish people were usually good at prayer, and basically prayed three times a day. Therefore, the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray not because they didn't know how to pray, but because they intuitively felt that Jesus' prayer was different from that of others.

Most Jews prayed at least three times a day, but their prayers were formal, a way of boasting about their knowledge and their faith. However, Jesus' prayer was the living prayer, and it was a way of communicating with God. That's why the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray.

Next, let's read verse two together: "So he said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, may your name be revered as holy. May your kingdom come." Do you know how amazing this verse is? Today we feel very close to God, but in Jesus' time people did not. To them, God was a fearful being, so they did not dare to speak the name of God. So they called God in various ways, such as God, Lord, Yahweh, and Elohim. However, they are not the names of God, they are words that indicate the presence of God. By the way, when Jesus taught his disciples to pray, what was the first word to call on God? At that time, people believed that only Christ could call God, Father. They must have been quite surprised when Jesus told his disciples to call God, Father.

Have you ever heard the word "Abba Father"? What does "Abba" mean? Does Abba mean "Daddy"? Does Abba mean "Dad"? Although the meanings of Abba and Daddy are similar, the word Abba includes the meaning of respect and obedience. Thus, the correct meaning of Abba is Father rather than Daddy or Dad. Jesus wanted his disciples to have a relationship with God that was like that of a father and a son. I

think some people understand the relationship between father and son easily, and some may not. Therefore, you can understand it as a relationship between a mother and a son or a mother and a daughter, or a relationship with supporters.

Jesus was not giving his disciples a sample of a prayer but a new prayer. The prayer Jesus taught emphasizes that this prayer should extend not only to the individual, but also to the community. So, the prayer Jesus taught us begins with this: “Our father, who art in heaven.” Not their father, not your father, not my father, but our father. Through Jesus' teaching, the disciples were able to call God their Father. And their God was their father. The God we believe in and their God is the same God. And their father and our father are the same father. We believe in the same God, the same Father.

If so, this is a quiz. How should we call each other who call God our Father? All of us who believe in God as our Father are brothers and sisters in Christ. Next quiz. Can we pray the Lord's prayer while indifferent to and hating each other? We pray the Lord's Prayer every Sunday, but we have to know that this is not an easy prayer. This prayer can only be prayed by those who have embraced each other as their siblings. I pray and hope that our church community will become a community that loves, understands, forgives and prays for one another as children of God.

The Lord's Prayer contains everything from 'the kingdom of God', a common request of the world, to 'daily bread' needed by each individual. The Lord's Prayer balances the prayers of heaven and earth. Which part in the Lord's Prayer touched your heart the most?

Jesus said: “9 So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.” Through our prayers, Jesus told us to ask, search, and knock to God constantly.

To summarize the Lord's prayer, it is, "Trust in the Lord, for your life depends on God." Our prayers have a huge impact on our lives. In other words, the direction of our lives depends on what we pray for. We need to look back at our prayers. The subject of prayer is not me. The subject of prayer is God. If the center of our faith was own self at the beginning of the faith journey, God must be the center of our life so, we must invite Him everyday into our hearts. Faith is not that I live my life, but that God lives my life.

Lastly, a good faith community is a community that prays for each other. In James 5:16 it is written: "Therefore confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." We cannot hate each other while praying for each other, because the moment we sincerely pray for each other, reconciliation and love already begin in our hearts. In particular, "pray for one another" is sharing the burdens of others.

Friends: prayer is our right and our duty. A person who prays is a person whose center of faith is right. Therefore, those who can pray are happy. Prayer should become a habit and a custom for all of us so that we may gain the strength to overcome the temptations of the world and experience the joy and peace God gives us. I hope that we pray the Lord's Prayer every day, every moment of our minds, and pray with our lives.

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. Amen.