

The Lord's Prayer

193. What privilege and command does God give to those who believe in Jesus Christ?

God commands and invites believers in Jesus Christ to pray.

684 **Matt. 7:7-8** 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.

685 **1 Thess. 5:16-18** Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

194. What is prayer?

Prayer is speaking to God in words and thoughts.

686 **Ps. 19:14** May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in Your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

687 **Acts 7:59-60** While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

Bible narratives: Abraham prayed for Sodom (Gen. 18:22-23). Jesus in Gethsemane (Matt. 26:36-44). Thanksgiving for the release of Peter and John from prison (Acts 4:23-31).

195. To whom should we pray?

We should pray to the true God only, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, not to idols, saints, or anything God has created.

688 **Ps. 65:2** O You who hear prayer, to You all men will come.

689 **1 John 5:20--21** We are in Him who is true—even in His Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

690 **Rev. 22:8-9** I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers the prophets and of all who keep the words of this book. Worship God!"

Bible narratives: Elijah and the priests of Baal (1 Kings 18:25-29 36-39). Daniel in the lions' den (Dan. 6:1-23). Paul in Lystra (Acts 14:8-18). Jesus' High Priestly Prayer (John 17).

An Explanation of The Small Catechism

196. Whose prayers are acceptable to God?

Only those who believe in Jesus Christ may pray to God and expect to be heard.

691 **John 14:13-14** I will do whatever you ask in My name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask Me for anything in My name, and I will do it.

692 **John 15:7** If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.

197. What should be the content of our prayers?

In our prayers we should ask for everything that tends to the glory of God and to our own and our neighbor's welfare, both spiritual and bodily blessings. We should also praise and thank God for who He is and what He has done.

693 **Phil. 4:6** Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

694 **Ps. 136:1** Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever.

198. How should we pray?

We should pray

A. in the name of Jesus, that is, with faith in Him as our Redeemer;

695 **John 16:23** I tell you the truth, My Father will give you whatever you ask in My name.

B. with confidence, that is with firm trust that for Jesus' sake our prayers will be answered;

696 **Matt. 21:22** If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.

697 **James 1:6-7** When he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord.

C. according to God's revealed will.

698 **Luke 11:13** 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!

699 **Luke 22:42** Father, if You are willing, take this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done.

700 **Matt. 8:2** A man with leprosy came and knelt before Him and said, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean."

701 **1 John 5:14** This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

An Explanation of The Small Catechism

199. Who helps us pray?

God the Holy Spirit prays with and for us.

702 **Rom. 8:26** In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

200. How does God answer prayer?

God hears the prayers of all Christians and answers in His own way and at His own time.

703 **Is. 65:24** Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear.

704 **2 Cor. 12:8-9** Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

Bible narratives: Jesus healed a centurion's servant (Matt. 8:5-13). Jesus healed a paralytic (Matt. 9:18). The Lord planned to rescue Israel from Egypt (Ex. 3:7-10). The parable of the persistent widow (Luke 18:1-8).

201. For whom should we pray?

We should pray for ourselves and for all other people, even for our enemies, but not for the souls of the dead.

705 **1 Tim. 2:1-2** I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

706 **Matt. 5:44** Pray for those who persecute you.

707 **Heb. 9:27** Man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.

Bible narratives: The tax collector prayed for himself (Luke 18:13). Abraham prayed for Sodom (Gen. 18:23-32). The Canaanite woman prayed for her daughter (Matt. 15:22-28). Jesus prayed for His enemies (Luke 23:34). Stephen prayed for his enemies (Acts 7:60).

202. Where should we pray?

We should pray everywhere, especially when we are alone, with our families, and in church.

708 **1 Tim. 2:8** I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing.

709 **Matt. 6:6** When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

An Explanation of The Small Catechism

710 **Luke 5:16** Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

711 **Acts 12:5** Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.

203. When should we pray?

We should pray regularly and frequently, especially in time of trouble.

712 **Ps. 65:8** Where morning dawns and evening fades You call forth songs of joy.

713 **Ps. 119:164** Seven times a day I praise You for Your righteous laws.

714 **Dan. 6:10** When Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

715 **Luke 18:1** Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

716 **1 Thess. 5:17-18** Pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

717 **Ps. 50:15** Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor Me.

Bible narrative: The early Christians kept the customary hours of prayer (Acts 2:46-3:1; 10).

Note: See Luther's suggestions in this catechism for daily morning, evening, and mealtime prayers.

204. What prayer did Jesus give us to show us how to pray?

Jesus gave us the Lord's Prayer.

Bible narrative: The Lord's Prayer (Matt. 6:9-13; Luke 11:1-4).

The Introduction

Our Father who art in heaven.

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.

An Explanation of The Small Catechism

205. In what way does the word Father in the Lord's Prayer encourage us to pray?

The word Father tells us that God loves us and wants us to pray to Him confidently and without fear.

718 **1 John 3:1** How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him.

719 **Rom. 8:15-16** You received the Spirit of sonship. The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

720 **2 Cor. 6:18** I will be a Father to you, and you will be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.

721 **Heb. 4:16** Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

722 **Ps. 103:13** As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him.

Bible narrative: The lost son (Luke 15:11-32).

206. What does the word our impress upon us when we pray, "Our Father"?

In Jesus all believers are children of the one Father and should pray with and for one another. 723 Eph. 4:6 [There is] one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

724 **Gal. 3:26** You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

725 **James 5:16** Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

207. What do the words "who art in heaven" say about God?

These words assure us that our heavenly Father as Lord over all, has the power to grant our prayers

726 **Ps. 124:8** Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

727 **Luke 1:37** Nothing is impossible with God.

728 **Acts 17:24** The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth.

An Explanation of The Small Catechism

The First Petition

Hallowed be Thy name.

What does this mean?

God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also. How is God's name kept holy? God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!

208. What is the connection between this petition and the Second Commandment?

Both speak about the name of God. "In this petition we pray for exactly the same thing that God demands in the Second Commandment: that His name should not be taken in vain ... but used rightly to the praise and glory of God" (Large Catechism 11145).

729 **Ex. 20:7** You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses His name.

209. What are we asking when we pray that God's name be made holy?

Since God's name is God as He has revealed Himself to us, we cannot make His name holy, but we do pray that He would help us keep His name holy in our lives.

730 **Ps. 103:1** Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name.

210. How do we keep God's name holy?

We keep God's name holy

A. when God's Word is taught among us in its truth and purity;

731 **Jer. 23:28** Let the one who has My Word speak it faithfully.

732 **John 17:17** Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth.

B. when we live according to the Word of God.

733 **Matt. 5:16** Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

734 **Eph. 4:1** As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

An Explanation of The Small Catechism

Bible narrative: Zacchaeus resolved to live the Christian life (Luke 19:1-9).

211. How is God's name profaned?

God's name is profaned, that is, dishonored,

A. when anyone teaches contrary to God's Word;

735 **Jer. 23:31** "Yes," declares the Lord, I am against the prophets who wag their own tongues and yet declare, "The Lord declares."

B. when anyone lives contrary to God's Word.

736 **Rom. 2:23-24** You who brag about the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law? As it is written: "God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of YOU."

The Second Petition

Thy kingdom come.

What does this mean?

The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.

How does God's kingdom come?

God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.

212. What is the kingdom of God?

The kingdom of God is His ruling as king over the whole universe (kingdom of power), the church on earth (kingdom of grace), and the church and angels in heaven (kingdom of glory).

737 **Ps. 103:19** The Lord has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all. (Kingdom of power)

738 **John 3:5** Jesus answered, I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit." (Kingdom of grace)

739 **2 Tim. 4:18** The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory for ever and ever. Amen. (Kingdom of glory)

An Explanation of The Small Catechism

213. For what do we pray in the Second Petition?

We do not pray that God's kingdom of power would come, because that is already present everywhere, but we ask God to

A. give us His Holy Spirit so that we believe His Word and lead godly lives as members of His kingdom of grace;

740 **Mark 1:15** "The time has come," He said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

741 **Rom. 14:17** The kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

742 **Col. 1:13-14** He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

B. bring many others into His kingdom of grace;

743 **Matt. 9:38** Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.

744 **2 Thess. 3:1** Finally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you.

C. use us to extend His kingdom of grace;

745 **Acts 4:29** Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable Your servants to speak Your word with great boldness.

746 **1 Peter 2:12** Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us.

D. hasten the coming of His kingdom of glory.

747 **Phil. 3:20** Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.

748 **Rev. 22:20** He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

214. How can we be certain that the kingdom of God comes?

The Lord guarantees that His means of grace establish and sustain His kingdom.

749 **Is. 55:11** My word ... will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Bible narrative: The parable of the growing seed (Mark 4:26-29).

An Explanation of The Small Catechism

The Third Petition

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

What does this mean?

The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

How is God's will done?

God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.

215. What is the good and gracious will of God?

It is God's will that His name be kept holy and that His kingdom come, that is, that His Word be taught correctly and that sinners be brought to faith in Christ and lead godly lives.

750 **Deut. 4:2** Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the Lord your God that I give you.

751 **John 6:40** My Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

752 **1 Tim. 2:4** [God] wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

753 **1 Thess. 4:3** It is God's will that you should be sanctified.

216. Whose will and plans are opposed to the will of God?

The devil, the world, and our own sinful nature oppose the good and gracious will of God.

754 **1 Peter 5:8** Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

755 **1 John 2:15-17** Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world--the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does--comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

756 **Rom. 7:18** I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.

Bible narratives: The devil misled humanity to sin (Gen 3:1-7). The enemies of Jesus brought about the fall of Peter (Luke 22:54-62). Achan's sinful nature led him to steal (Joshua 7:18-22).

An Explanation of The Small Catechism

217. Why do we pray that the will of God be done?

We know that the will of God will always be done, but we want God's good and gracious will to be done in our lives.

"As God's name must be hallowed and His kingdom must come even without our prayer, so must His will be done and prevail even though the devil and all his host storm and rage furiously against it in their at utterly to exterminate the Gospel. But for our own sake we must pray that His will may be done among us without hindrance, in spite of their fury, so that they may accomplish nothing and we may remain steadfast" (Large Catechism 11168).

757 **Ps. 115:3** Our God is in heaven; He does whatever pleases Him.

758 **Ps. 43:3** Send forth Your light and Your truth, let them guide me; let them bring me to Your holy mountain, to the place where You dwell.

759 **Phil. 1:21** To me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Bible narrative: The helplessness of the enemies of God (Psalm 2). The conversion of Paul (Acts 9:1-19).

218. How is God's will done in our lives?

God's will is done when

A. He breaks and hinders the plans of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which try to destroy our faith in Christ Jesus;

760 **Rom. 16:20** The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

761 **2 Tim. 1:12** I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him for that day.

B. He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith and helps us lead God-pleasing lives;

762 **1 Peter 1:5** [You] through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

763 **Ps. 119:35** Direct me in the path of Your commands, for there I find delight.

C. He supports us in all our troubles until we die.

764 **Rom. 8:28** We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.

765 **2 Cor. 12:9** He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness."

Bible narratives: God hindered the evil will of Joseph's brothers and kept him faithful (Gen. 50:15-21). God would not let the devil destroy Job (Job 1:1-2:6).

An Explanation of The Small Catechism

The Fourth Petition

Give us this day our daily bread.

What does this mean?

God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

What is meant by daily bread? Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, selfcontrol, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

219. Why do we pray to God for daily bread?

We pray to God for daily bread, which includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, because Christ wants us to

A. realize that our entire life and that of everyone else depends on God;

766 **Ps. 145:15-16** The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food at the proper time. You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

767 **Matt. 5:45** He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

768 **Acts 17:28** In Him we live and move and have our being.

769 **James 4:15** You ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."

B. receive all our physical blessings with thanks giving;

770 **Ps. 106:1** Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.

771 **Eph. 5:19-20** Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

772 **1 Tim. 4:4-5** Everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanks giving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.

C. look to God for physical as well as spiritual blessings.

An Explanation of The Small Catechism

773 **Ps. 91:15** He will call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him.

774 **Matt. 6:33** Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

775 **Luke 7:3** The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to Him, asking Him to come and heal his servant.

Bible narratives: Jesus healed blind Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52). Jesus healed 10 lepers (Luke 17:11-19).

220. How does God provide our daily bread?

He makes the earth fruitful and blesses us with the ability to work for the things we need.

776 **Ps. 104:14** He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate-bringing forth food from the earth.

777 **2 Thess. 3:10-12** Even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat." We hear that some among you are idle. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat.

221. **What does God want us to do for those who are unable to work for daily food?**

God does not want us to be selfish but to share with those who are unable to work and to include them in our prayers for daily bread.

778 **1 Tim. 5:8** If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

779 **Heb. 13:16** Do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

780 **1 John 3:17-18** If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

222. **Why does Jesus have us say "this day" and "daily"?**

These words teach us not to be greedy or wasteful or to worry about the future but to live contentedly in the confidence that the Lord will give us what we need.

781 **Prov. 30:8-9** Give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown You and say, "Who is the Lord?" Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God.

782 **Matt. 6:34** Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

An Explanation of The Small Catechism

783 **John 6:12** When they had all had enough to eat, He said to His disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted."

784 **1 Tim. 6:8** If we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.

785 **1 Peter 5:7** Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.

Bible narrative: The parable of the rich fool (Luke 12:15-21).

The Fifth Petition

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

What does this mean?

We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

223. What do we confess when we pray this petition?

We confess that we sin every day and deserve nothing but punishment.

786 **Prov. 28:13** He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

787 **Ps. 19:12** Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults.

224. What do we ask for in this petition?

We ask that our Father in heaven would for Christ's sake graciously forgive our sins.

788 **Ps. 51:1-2** Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love; according to Your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

789 **Ps. 130:3-4** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand? But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

790 **Luke 18:13** God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

225. Why do we include a prayer for forgiveness of sins in these petitions to our heavenly Father?

An Explanation of The Small Catechism

We are not worthy of the things for which we pray and have not deserved them. We therefore need God's forgiveness so that we may pray to Him confidently and in good conscience.

"Where the heart is not right with God ... it will never dare to pray.... A confident and joyful heart can come only from the knowledge that our sins are forgiven" (Large Catechism III, 92).

791 **Gen. 32:10** I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness You have shown Your servant.

792 **Ps. 32:5** I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord"-and You forgave the guilt of my sin.

226. What does God want us to do for those who sin against us?

Our heavenly Father wants us to forgive and to do good to those who sin against us.

793 **Matt. 6:12** Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

794 **Matt. 18:21-22** Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."

795 **Eph. 4:32** Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

227. What does it show when we forgive others?

It shows that we truly believe that God has forgiven us.

"Inasmuch as we sin greatly against God every day and yet He forgives it all through grace, we must always forgive our neighbor who does us harm, violence, and injustice [and] bears malice toward us.... If you do not forgive, do not think that God forgives you" (Large Catechism III:94-95).

796 **Matt. 6:14-15** If you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Bible narratives: Joseph forgave his brothers (Gen. 50:15-21). The parable of the unmerciful servant (Matt. 18:23-35).

The Sixth Petition

And lead us not into temptation.

What does this mean?

God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into

An Explanation of The Small Catechism

false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

228. What do tempt and temptation mean in the Scriptures?

In the Scriptures these words have two meanings:

A. The testing of our faith, which God uses to bring us closer to Himself.

797 **John 6:5-6** When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward Him, He said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" He asked this only to test him, for He already had in mind what He was going to do.

798 **James 1:2-3** Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.

Bible narratives: The Lord tested Abraham by commanding him to sacrifice Isaac (Gen. 22:1-19). Jesus tested the faith of the Canaanite woman (Matt. 15:21-28).

B. The attempts of our spiritual enemies to lure us away from God and His ways.

799 **Mark 14:38** Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.

800 **James 1:13-14** When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.

229. Into what kinds of evil do our spiritual enemies try to mislead us?

The devil, the world, and our sinful nature try to mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great sins.

801 **1 Peter 5:8-9** Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

802 **Prov. 1:10** My son, if sinners entice you, do not give in to them.

803 **Matt. 18:7** Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to sin! Such things must come, but woe to the man through whom they come!

804 **Gal. 5:17** The sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature.

805 **2 Cor. 4:8** We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair.

Bible narratives: The devil tempted Eve to doubt and disobey God (Genesis 3). The devil tempted Judas to betray Christ (John 13:2) and to despair (Matt. 27:4-5). Among enemies of Christ, Peter denied his Savior (Luke 22:54-60). King David's sinful nature tempted him to commit adultery and murder (2 Sam. 12:9).

An Explanation of The Small Catechism

230. What do we ask God to do for us when we pray this petition?

We ask our Father in heaven to give us strength to resist and overcome temptations.

806 **Luke 22:31-32** Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail.

807 **Rom. 13:14** Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

808 **1 Cor. 10:12-13** If you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

809 **Eph. 6:11, 17** Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Bible narratives: Joseph withstood the temptation of Potiphar's wife (Gen. 39:1-20). Jesus was tempted by Satan and won the victory for us (Matt. 4:1-11).

The Seventh Petition

But deliver us from evil.

What does this mean?

We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.

231. What kind of prayer is the Seventh Petition?

The seventh petition is a summary petition in which we ask our Father in heaven to rescue us from the devil and all evil which has come into the world because of sin.

810 **Ps. 121:7-8** The Lord will keep you from all harm. He will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

811 **2 Thess. 3:3** The Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.

232. How does the Lord rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation?

In a world ruined by sin, the Lord keeps us from harm and he helps us to endure the troubles that He allows to come into our lives.

812 **Acts 14:22** We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God.

An Explanation of The Small Catechism

813 **Ps. 91:9-10** If you make the Most High your dwelling—even the Lord, who is my refuge—then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent.

814 **2 Cor. 12:9** My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.

815 **Prov. 3:11-12** My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline and do not resent His rebuke, because the Lord disciplines those He loves, as a father the son he delights in.

Bible narratives: The three men in the fiery furnace (Daniel 3). Daniel in the lions' den (Daniel 6).

233. What final deliverance from evil do we ask the Lord to bring to us?

We want our Father in heaven to keep us faithful Him and when we die to take us from this sorrowful world to Himself in heaven.

816 **Luke 2:29-30** Lord, as You have promised, You now dismiss Your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to Your people Israel.

817 **2 Tim. 4:18** The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

818 **Rev. 14:13** Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. 819 **Rev. 21:4** He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain. For the old order of things has passed away.

The Conclusion

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

What does this mean?

This means that I should be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven, and are heard by Him; for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us. Amen, amen, which means "yes, yes, it shall be so."

234. Why do we end the Lord's Prayer with the word amen?

The word amen means "so shall it be" and emphasizes that God, who has commanded us to pray, will hear our prayers and answer them as He has promised.

820 **Ps. 50:15** Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor Me.

821 **Prov. 15:8** The Lord detests the sacrifice of the wicked, but the prayer of the upright pleases Him.

822 **Prov. 15:29** The Lord is far from the wicked but He hears the prayer of the righteous.

An Explanation of The Small Catechism

235. How do I know God is able to answer the prayers of His people in Christ Jesus?

A. He alone is the King who has all good gifts in His control.

823 **James 1:17** Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

824 **Ps. 103:2-3** Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases.

B. He alone has the power to grant our petitions.

825 **Ps. 33:6** By the word of the Lord were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of His mouth.

826 **Eph. 3:20-21** To Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

C. He has all glory and is worthy of our praise.

827 **Ps. 113:4-5** The Lord is exalted over all the nations, His glory above the heavens. Who is like the Lord our God, the One who sits enthroned on high?

828 **1 Tim. 1:17** To the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.