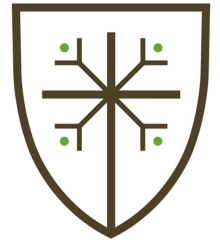


# SERMON NOTES



## The Lord's Prayer *Fall Sermon Series*

October 22, 2023

### SERMON INFO

#### TITLE

"The Bread We Need"

#### PREACHER

Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt

#### TEXTS

Isaiah 65:17-19, 24-25

2 Corinthians 12:3-10

Matthew 6:9-13; 7:7-11

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What needs do you have (or have had in the past) that feel either too big or too small to take to God? How does praying the Lord's Prayer to our Heavenly Father contradict that idea?
2. What do you need today to go on living and are you praying for it, petitioning your Heavenly Father as our children petition us?

### SERMON IN SUMMARY

This week, we continued our sermon series with a second look at the petition for daily bread in the Lord's Prayer. What does the request specifically for daily bread mean and how can the analogy of God as Father help us to pray with confidence?

#### The Meaning of Daily

Tim gave us three understandings of the phrase "daily bread." The first is a call to pay close attention to "daily." We see repetition in this phrase with "today" and "daily, which, in Scripture, means it must be important. We are not to be paralyzed either by guilt for what has happened in the past or anxiety for the unknowns of the future, but to be faithful in today's troubles. We go to God with the needs of today in order to be faithful today.

The second understanding is what Tim referred to as the spiritualized understanding of the word. Jesus is the bread of life. To ask for our daily bread is to ask for more of Jesus. Many of us are spiritually starving, hurting, weary, and overwhelmed. And Jesus tells us to just ask. Ask for bread and we will be fed until we are full with the bread of life. We come to the communion table each week to participate in this life, to be filled up with the life of Christ.

The third understanding Tim gave stems from the meaning of the Greek word here translated as "daily" – *epiousion* – which literally means being. Give us today the bread of our being or existence. Give us today whatever it is that we need to go on living.

#### The Analogy We Need

The first thing we looked at in the Lord's Prayer was the analogy of God as Father, and that analogy speaks to every petition thereafter. Parents long to give their children good things. And with that knowledge, we can pray confidently to our Heavenly Father. There is no truly good thing that we've ever needed or asked for that God has refused to give us. But we often struggle to remember or believe that. And so we are given the analogy. But we need to flip the analogy to truly grasp it. Not only will God, our Father, give us good things. He cannot do otherwise. Everything good comes from God and everything from God is good. Like our children, we often confuse what we need with our interpretation of the need. Paul asked for the thorn in his flesh to be removed in order to continue to minister faithfully, thinking that was what was necessary for faithful ministry. Instead, God's "power was made perfect in weakness." So too with our own weaknesses. We must be willing to ask God to give us whatever it is that we need for today in order that his power would be perfected in our weakness, to use what little we have to do something big.