

The Daily Office

Opening Announcements

Associate Pastor Survey

Opening Prayer

Q: What disciplines or structures have you seen or used that help you in prayer (ex: The Lord's Prayer, Prayer books, Structured prayers like A.C.T.S., etc?).

Q: What is the importance or significance in personal prayer?

Q: What is the importance or significance in public prayer?

Transition: Historically, the Jews divided up their day into different "times" of prayer. The early Christian church based their "Daily Office" or Canonical Hours off of these and divided each day into seven times of daily prayer (Matins, w/ "Lauds", Prime, Terce, Sext, None, Vespers and Compline). These have been used by Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran, and others for centuries. Each of the "hours" is focused on God's Word, Prayers, Specific foci depending on the time of day (ex: During Compline, the focus is on rest, a peaceful nights sleep, protection, thanksgiving for God's grace throughout the day and prayers for the upcoming day). The Daily Office or Hours, or Canonical hours was eventually reduced in the Lutheran Tradition to Matins and Vespers (Morning prayer and Evening prayer). The early church recognized the usefulness of structure to help maintain focus throughout the day. While, "keeping the office" may seem impossible in these busy days, in the next section, we'll see how Jesus' "structure" can help us throughout OUR day!

TABLE TIME...

READ: Matthew 6:9-13 "Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. ¹⁰Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us this day our daily bread, ¹²and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

Q: What is the structure of this prayer? (Ex: how many sections/petitions are there?)

Q: When you think of this prayer in "big picture" ways, what topics, situations, challenges does this prayer address?

Q: Is there anything this prayer can't or doesn't address?

Q: How is it very, simple?

Q: In what ways is it complex?

Big Table Debrief....

READ: Matthew 6:9 "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name."

Q: What do you notice about this petition?

Q: What does "hallowed" mean?

READ: Matthew 6:10 "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

Q: What are we praying for?

Q: What is God's "Kingdom"?

READ: Matthew 6:11 "Give us this day our daily bread"

Q: What are we asking for today?

Q: What does "daily bread" mean?

Q: What does this exclude?

READ: Matthew 6:12 "and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors"

Q: What are we praying for in this petition?

Q: What's hard about this one?

Q: Why does God connect OUR forgiveness with "how" we forgive our debtors?

Q: How is "sin" like a "debt"? Why is it good to be "free"?

READ: Matthew 6:13 "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil"

Q: What are we praying for here?

Q: Why are we prone to temptation?

Q: What is the difference between temptation and testing?

Q: When Jesus was "led into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil" (Matthew 4:1), how does HIS victory over temptation help us understand when we are tempted?

READ: James 1:13-15 "Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death"

Q: What does this passage teach us about temptation?

Q: How does this help us understand the petition in the Lord's prayer to "lead us not into temptation"?

READ: "God indeed tempts no one, but we pray in this Petition that God would guard and keep us, that the devil, the world and our flesh may not deceive us, nor lead us into misbelief, despair and other shameful sin and vice; and, though we be thus tempted, that we may still in the end overcome, and hold the victory." - Luther's Small Catechism

Q: How does Luther's teaching help us understand this petition?

Q: How might you use the Lord's Prayer throughout your day to "pray without ceasing"? (1 Thess. 5:17)