Sermon – Vanlue, Nov. 8, 2026

The Lord's Prayer

Scripture:

Luke 11:1–4 (ESV)

1. Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."
2. And he said to them, "When you pray, say: "Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come.
3. Give us each day our daily bread,
4. and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation."

Introduction:

Hello. My name is Robert Theis. I'm here with my wife Tonya Theis. Thank you for the privilege of sharing God's Word with you today. I am currently pursuing a Master of Divinity from Winebrenner, which, IF I pass all my classes, this coming spring will be my last trimester!

A few months ago, Pastor Melanie and her family came to visit the church I attend in Risingsun, OH. I had met her a few times at conferences, so I was happy when she reached out to ask if I could do pulpit fill today while her and her family are away. I am always happy when given these opportunities to share and meet other believers.

I asked Pastor Melanie if you recited the Lord's Prayer and she said you recite the Prayer once a month when you do communion, which is great. Since you do, I thought it would be fun to focus on that today, the Lord's Prayer. At Risingsun, they like to recite the Lord's Prayer every Sunday to conclude the request for prayers and alter call.

The first time I gave a sermon at Risingsun, I was nervious, but I asked Pastor Paul if I could also be the worship leader. Worship leader does the announcements and lead's the congregation in prayer prior to the sermon. It was enjoyable and a great learning experience, but I forgot one important thing – to recite the Lord's Prayer! I learned that day how important tradition and customs are to a congregation. As I was shaking hands after service, everyone reminded me I forgot the Lord's Prayer! (haha) I told myself that day, "I'll never forget that again!"

Sometime after that, I was walking into school with my wife, she is a middle school teacher, and someone said, "Hello Tonya, how are you?" My wife unloaded on him, telling him all about her day and whatever issues she was having. It made me laugh because I realized by the

look on his face, when he said, “How are you,” he was merely saying “Hello” and hadn’t thought Tonya would tell him exactly how she was doing!

That’s when I thought about the topic for today, “How often do we say a prayer, or recite a phrase, and we do not actually consider what we are asking or saying?” To that man in the school, “How are you” was just an extension of saying, “Hello.” When I started to break down the Lord’s Prayer, I realized I might be saying something to God that I haven’t fully thought through.

How often had I, and likely many of us, recited words and prayed, but not fully comprehended what we were saying? How often had I said the Lord’s Prayer yet not taken the time to think about what I was asking God? Hopefully by the end of today’s sermon, we will have a better understanding of the following:

- What is the Lord’s Prayer?
- Was it meant as an outline for all prayer?
- Should we recite it, and if we do, what are we asking God?
- And lastly, what wisdom can we take from it to make our own prayer lives stronger?

Sermon:

Are you like me and love when a prayer, story, or event is detailed in multiple places in the Bible? The Lord’s Prayer appears in Luke and Matthew, but our primary focus today will be those passages found in Luke. As we break down those passages in Luke, we will attempt to answer the following questions:

- What did Jesus say?
- What can we learn from the passage?
- And how can we apply it to our own prayer life?

To start, let’s read through the Lord’s Prayer. Afterwards, we will look at the Gospel’s of Luke and Matthew where the Prayer is mentioned. This is the version we recite at Risingsun. Let us pray:

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.

If you have your Bibles open, flip to Luke 11, verses 1-4.

Luke 11:1–4 (ESV)

1. Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”
    a. John being John the Baptist
2. And he said to them, “When you pray, say: “Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come.
3. Give us each day our daily bread,
4. and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.”

Keep a bookmark here and flip over to Matthew 6 where we will read verses 9-13.

Matthew 6:9–13 (ESV)

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

The Lord’s Prayer appearing in two Gospel’s gives us the added benefit of providing us with a fuller context. These two sets of passages are told to two different audiences, on two different occasions. In Luke’s Gospel, Jesus is answering the disciple’s question about how to pray. In Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus has included it as part of the Sermon on the Mount and telling people to pray like this.

In both instances, the Lord’s Prayer is shown as a framework, or template, for our prayer life. An outline that we can use for all prayer. Since it is an outline, does that mean it is not personalized and we should not say it as a stand-alone prayer? Not at all. I think if people stay it as a stand-alone prayer, that is just fine. A lot of people do, and scripture supports us doing so.

Is it OK if you pray, but never end up saying the Lord’s Prayer as described in the Gospel’s? I believe that is OK, too. God wants a relationship with us, and one way we strengthen that relationship is through prayer. If you pray the Lord’s Prayer, or if you pray and just talk to God, the important thing is that you have made Him LORD of your life and you are working on that relationship with Him.

Let’s go back to Luke and go through the Lord’s Prayer, verse by verse, and consider those three points we mentioned earlier:

- What did Jesus say?

- What can we learn from the passage?
- And how can we apply it to our own prayer life?

Read: Luke 11:1 (ESV)

1. Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”

Let’s pause for a moment and consider what Jesus is doing at the start of chapter 11 of Luke. Jesus, who can draw in large crowds, who can turn water into wine, who can give the blind sight and allow the lame to walk, and who can even raise people from the dead, yet in Luke 11:1, we find Him praying. This gives us all the context we need to know how important prayer is. The Son, the second person of the Trinity, is in prayer to the Father.

In the last few weeks, I’ve heard a few people mention that they have not been praying and reading their Bibles. Do you know anyone who struggles with prayer and reading their Bible? I know I’ve allowed myself to make excuses for not reading my Bible regularly and not going to God in prayer. I find myself working on a sermon, trying to solve a problem, or work on an issue and then I realize, “Wait, I’m seeking answers, yet I’ve not even taken the time to pray beforehand! I’ve not even asked God for guidance.” If you are like me, sometimes you rely on your own strength, your own understanding, and that clouds what we should really be doing from the start, going to God for our strength and praying for wisdom and understanding.

Reading Luke 11:1 helps ME realize my priorities can become askew. If the Gospel’s are emphasizing Jesus is praying, that is showing how important it is and how often WE should be in prayer. If the creator of the universe takes the time to pray, I have no excuse not to! (haha)

As a side note, how amazing would it have been to be the disciple that got to ask our LORD how to pray? To travel with Jesus and ask Him questions. Through prayer, we can ask Him anything, but to be there with Him. Honestly, I would be afraid to ask Him questions. Thinking about how often my wife tells me something, and then I must ask her to repeat what she’s already told me, I can imagine Jesus saying, “Haven’t I already explained this to you?” while giving me that annoyed look that Tonya gives me when she has to repeat herself! (haha)

Read: Luke 11:2 (ESV)

2. And he said to them, “When you pray, say: “Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come.

Here we have Jesus, our LORD, telling His disciples HOW to pray, and He starts by saying, “Father, hallowed be your name.” Hallowed, not a word I use in day-to-day conversation, means, “To greatly revere, to make holy, to make sacred.” Here we see Jesus lifting up the name of God the Father. He is telling us that we should do the same when we go to God in prayer.

Seeing Jesus express such reverence to God the Father begs the question, “How much care do we take when referring to God?”

How often do we hear people taking the Lord’s name in vain nowadays? It is not uncommon to hear “God” or “Jesus Christ” used as an expletive. It has been so normalized, many people do not even realize they are doing it. My wife made a great observation the other day. She mentioned that we have even normalized flippantly referring to God via our text message by using abbreviations like, “Oh Em Gee.”

I find myself humbled by this verse. How often am I flippantly referring to God throughout the week? Here we have Jesus starting off by honoring God the Father and I pause to think, “Have I failed to show respect when referring to God this week?” A passage like this helps all of us to realize how important it is to give God our respect, and how we need to do better NOT only in our prayer life, but in our day-to-day conversations as well. As believers, if we do not praise God in our speech, what impression does that give to the non-believer?

Read: Luke 11:3 (ESV)

3. Give us each day our daily bread,

This passage emphasizes the importance of a continual, ongoing relationship with God. It also emphasizes the importance of trust. This leaves me thinking about the following three ares:

- Physical needs
- Spiritual needs
- Being anxious and ultimately trust

Not only are we to go to God daily, but here we have the added emphasis of “daily bread.” Humans must eat to sustain life, so Jesus is emphasizing the importance of that daily, ongoing sustenance that comes along with submission to God.

Jesus’ disciples would have known the stories from Exodus, when the Hebrew people were in the wilderness, hungry, and God provided mana for them from Heaven. They were told not to store up extra, except for Sabbath, but to only take enough to sustain themselves for that day. In doing so, they were learning to TRUST God. We are told that some did NOT trust and they stored up extra, and what happened? It became spoiled, filled with worms and stunk. God repeatedly throughout scripture emphasizes the importance of going to Him daily.

Jesus is emphasizing the spiritual need as well. The mention of daily bread reminds us of the time after Jesus was baptized and went out into the wilderness for forty days. Satan tempted Him, saying, “If you ARE the Son of GOD, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” And what was Jesus’ reply? “It is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” Here, Jesus is pointing back to Deuteronomy 8:3 where it says, “Man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth

of the LORD." In the Gospel of John, we see Jesus referring to Himself as the Bread of Life. The Living Bread that came down from Heaven. He is the giver and sustainer of life.

Lastly, anxiety and trust. We, like the Hebrews, are to Trust that God will provide. Please do not hear what I am not saying. This is not a promotion for the prosperity Gospel. What we think we need is often different than what God knows we need. God is not a vending machine that provides blessings by way of prayer and good deeds. Sometimes I WISH that were the case, but my priorities are often askew and my desires are often on worldly things.

Give us each day our daily bread serves as a reminder not to be anxious day-by-day. God loves you and knows your needs and desires before you do. It is also a reminder to give thanks to God daily for the blessings we DO have. I find it easy to remember to pray when I'm anxious or worried, but when things are going great, sometimes it is easy to forget to give thanks … not just once, but often. Matthew 6 and Luke 12 help us realize how important we are to God. "Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your Heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"

Read: Luke 11:4 (ESV)

4. and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation."

Lastly, we come to verse 4. This verse is one of the primary reasons I wanted to talk about the Lord's Prayer. Is there anyone here, like me, that finds it difficult to forgive those that have sinned against you, or against a loved one? This is a difficult topic to think about, let alone discuss. When we are hurt, we like to hang on to that pain and not let it go. It is natural to want to repress the distressing thoughts, emotions and experiences from when we are hurt. Then we read, "forgive everyone" and it is like WOW, talk about easier said than done!

Tonya and I watch a lot of documentaries and a myriad of sins come up. Everything from bullying, hate, adultery, physical violence, sexual violence, manipulation, the list goes on and on. Something like bullying is difficult enough to forgive, let alone the thought of sexual violence or murder of a loved one.

But, think about what Jesus is saying in verse 4. Think about what it is telling us and think about what we are saying when we recite the Lord's Prayer. To paraphrase, "Forgive US, as we ourselves forgive." We are saying, "God, forgive US like WE forgive." If we are choosing NOT to forgive, what is it that we are asking God?

Verse 4 is putting forgiveness front and center! I don't recall saying the Lord's Prayer much in our previous church. That is not saying we didn't, I just don't recall. In Risingsun, they say it weekly and after weeks of repeating it, it started to sync in what I was asking. When it did, it stopped me in my tracks. I was still hanging on to some hatred. I was still letting the past dictate how I thought in the present. It was the work of the Holy Spirit that day that opened my

eyes and softened my heart, allowing me to even acknowledge it was happening. It's not always an immediate change. For me, that moment was when I started asking God to change me, because I did not know how to change, and that's OK. We want to be in that state of submission to God.

If we could do it ourselves, we would do it and we would not have a need for God. We cannot do it apart from God, which is the point.

After thinking about the Lord's Prayer and talking to others, I found forgiveness is an area they struggle with as well. That left me thinking, isn't it interesting that we try to tuck away and hide some sin from God? It's like we are saying, "God, I am ready to give these sins over to you, but please ignore these few until I am ready!"

Verse 4 helps emphasize the importance of giving ALL sin to God. Every bit of it. Our sin is what separates us from God, so why would we want to hang on to any of it?

Now, does that mean you can become sinless? Nope. At least not while in this flesh. Does that mean you'll never do that sin again? Not at all. Does that mean you even know how to stop sinning? What if you have the thought, "If I am honest, do I really want to stop this sin?" I think that level of honesty is important. I think that level of honesty allows us to go to God in meaningful prayer.

If I do not know how to stop sinning, or even if I don't know if I want to stop sinning, I can go to God with an honest prayer and say, "God, in this area my heart is wicked. Will you change it? I cannot do it, I'm not even sure I want to. All I can do is submit. God, please change me."

And here's the thing, for those of you who are like me and often think, "I just don't know how God is going to change me. I don't know how God is going to fix this situation." Guess what, we don't need to know. We don't need to understand everything. God is God, we are not. Give it to God, submit to His Lordship, and TRUST. There is a reason why the Apostle Paul says, "The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

True peace is not found by hiring some self-help guru, or reading the latest self-help book … true peace is found in God and God alone. It comes from knowing God. Giving our lives over to God. Making Him LORD of our lives and walking with Him daily. That peace, like the Grace He provides, is not something we earn or deserve, it is something He provides because He loves us.

Closing:

With that, I want to thank you for allowing me to share with you today.

To summarize

- When we pray, which let's try to do daily, remember to exalt God's name. He is our Creator and our Redeemer.
- Pray with sincerity. Talk to God as we would a loving Father.
- Ask and give thanks for both your physical AND spiritual needs.
- Remember, God's Word is TRUTH, so seek His wisdom by the reading of His WORD.
- And finally, if you are holding on to any hate or hurt, give it to God so HIS peace can comfort you.

The Lord's Prayer is a great prayer. It serves as a reminder of what is important AND teaches us how to pray. God wants a relationship with each and every one of us, and part of that relationship includes prayer and the reading of His Word.

Before Tonya blesses us with a song, I thought it would be fitting for us to conclude by prayer, the Lord's Prayer. Feel free to pray it aloud:

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.

God bless.

Tonya's Song:

- I love the songs Tonya chooses for my sermons. This song speaks to giving thanks to God even when He answers in ways we did not expect. That is such an important thing to remember. God will provide, but likely not in ways you are expecting. It emphasizes trust and submission.