

Ascension Day of Prayer, Thursday, May 14, 2026

Pray the Lord's Prayer

The column on the left shows the different parts of the Lord's Prayer.

The column on the right contains notes from a sermon Pastor Dunn gave last summer as he shared his way of thinking of the Lord's Prayer. The prayer reminds him of being on a mission in the deserts of Saudi Arabia as a military chaplain.

Your action

Read each box on the left, followed by the excerpts from Pastor's message in each accompanying box on the right. Use the picture Pastor Dunn painted of being on a dangerous, unfamiliar desert road and seeking God's guidance and protection. Like Pastor Dunn, like Jesus and the disciples, our earthly road can be filled with interruptions, anxieties, and troubles as we go out each day to share the message of God's love in our words and actions.

Pray the Lord's Prayer at least three times today –

- pray it in the **morning** when you wake up,
- pray it in the **middle of your day**,
- pray it once more **as you lay down** to sleep.

<p>We pray the Lord's Prayer when we're happy, scared, sad, lonely, grieving, unsure.</p> <p>We pray in the light of day and dark of night, when times are good and when times are bad.</p>	<p>In Pastor's words...</p> <p>Jesus sent his disciples on the road to faraway places. He knew there would be danger. Their mission to spread the gospel. We are on that same mission, on a journey that can take us down roads that seem like a desert road, rough, rugged terrain, unfamiliar territory, far from home.</p>
<p><i>Our Father, who art in heaven</i></p>	<p>We start by knowing we are loved and secure. God in His heavenly kingdom loves us, watches over us, and wants to hear from us. We feel loved and among something familiar, something that reminds us of home.</p>

Hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

We give praise to our Savior and King. We know that every knee bows before Him in heaven. We love God and love our neighbors. We know that God's will is done here on earth, at least in part. We desire that, one day, God's will shall be **fully** done on earth just as it was in the Garden of Eden before the fall. That's the goal, that's the mission.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

We turn from praising our heavenly Father to asking for His presence on this journey. We pray for both the necessities of life and spiritual food. We need both types of nourishment to keep up our strength. Daily bread is the fuel that keeps the body going. Being forgiven provides a different kind of fuel. His forgiveness enables us to forgive others and keep moving forward. The bread and wine we share in the Lord's Supper become the means for receiving the forgiveness of our sins. Physical food and spiritual food - both are needed on the mission road.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

There are obstacles and distractions along the way, things that would entice us to stray from our mission. In this world, there is evil that partially thwarts the will of God on earth. God doesn't send evil but allows us to be battle-tested. Jesus taught that we can pray for God to deliver us from evil. We ask him to deliver us from that which would cause us to stray from our mission road; deliver us from illness and injury that would stop us; deliver us from the refusal to love others, which would sabotage our mission. We pray for the Lord's protection on the mission road.

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

Jesus travelled that road to Jerusalem to fulfill the mission, to reconcile us to God through the cross, his crown of thorns, and his crowning victory on Easter. He stands as the promise that our prayers to God will be delivered. Because of Jesus, prayers we pray to our Heavenly Father, prayers for our ministry of calling others to kneel before the King, prayers for protection and provisions while we walk our mission road, will be heard. That day will come when we gather around the table of the King. When we'll be home in heaven with Him.