

LITURGY BYTES

The Lord's Prayer



The prayer we call the Lord's Prayer, a/k/a the Our Father, is a very precious gift to us. This Lenten season, let us have the words take root in our hearts in a different or new way.

The prayer's opening, "Our Father," teaches that we can regard God as a loving parent who always desires what is for our good. The "Our" reminds us that we belong to a family of faith. To pray for the coming of God's kingdom and the enactment of God's will calls for a commitment on our part to do God's will.

My question is, how can I pray that God's will be done if I am not willing to obey God's ways? As children, we were taught that by being obedient, we give glory and honor to God. Most of us would recall how we tried to please God, especially as children. This Lent, that thought and the words to this very familiar prayer made me question where I stand.

The petitions in this prayer for daily bread and forgiveness manifest two basic truths: we are dependent completely on God, and we are in need of God's mercy. Both of these also come with the responsibilities of being generous with others and forgiving those who have hurt us.

Let the words to this prayer transform us this Lent and take root in our hearts. Remember, these are the words that Jesus himself taught us to pray! Going forward, try to say the words slowly and thoughtfully, imagining ourselves at the feet of Jesus, praying along with his voice, as we begin...
Our Father, who art in heaven...

Have a blessed, healthy, safe, and prayerful week! ~ *Michele Hall*