

The 7th Sunday after Pentecost
“Our dear giving Father in heaven!”

Luke 11:13
July 27, 2025
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Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, our text for this 7th Sunday after Pentecost is from
Luke 11:13.

“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

So far the text:

Look how quickly and willingly Jesus fulfills the request of one of the disciples to be taught to pray. For Jesus gladly gives His gifts to His believers in Him who ask. He wants us, who believe in Him, to also ask so that He can bestow on us His many spiritual and earthly gifts. He wants us to know that all believers in Jesus can approach their heavenly Father without reservation and truly talk to Him as their dear Father who loves them.

How is this possible? Through God the Son, who has opened all communication once again with God the Father, by His suffering death and resurrection! We who are evil, as Jesus says...born with our evil human nature...living with our present evil human nature... can also, and by God the Holy Spirit who is given to us believers, ask, seek, and knock on the heavenly doors of our dear Father, and He will indeed answer! For we are His children, washed and redeemed in our baptism by the shed blood of Jesus.

Indeed, as children of God, members of His Holy Christian Church, you have privileges...privileges which are yours to use fully and should be used fully. You have been given the gift of prayer. You have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit who implores you and guides you to pray.

Quickly and simply, Jesus gives His disciples and us also His model prayer...the Lord's Prayer. He teaches us how to pray. He repeats this prayer which He had taught in Matthew 6, now in a shortened form.

But, Jesus doesn't stop there does He? For knowing and doing are two different things. He then gives us an illustration that reminds us that the Father wants to hear from us. He doesn't just want an occasional text, and He certainly doesn't want to be ghosted by His children. No, He wants nonstop persistence in prayer from you!

Jesus tells us a quick story of a man that had a problem. A guest was coming and he didn't have food to give him. It was so much of a disturbing situation that he even went to such lengths as to wake up his neighbor for help...in the middle of the night.

This man wakes up his neighbor, **“Friend, lend me three loaves; 6 for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him”**

Go away! The door is shut. The kids are asleep with me in bed and I don't want to wake them up. What happened next? Did he apologize and say “Sorry, I'll wait until morning”. No, he kept asking, and asking...and asking. The man inside the house realized that his friend is not going to stop until he gets up, gives him some bread and then he can get back to sleep. So that's what he does...and not just bread, but as many as were his needs.

So, why does Jesus give us this little illustration? Because He wants you to be calling each other at midnight if you need something? How many people would you feel comfortable doing that? And not taking no for an answer?

No, Jesus wants you to be absolutely comfortable asking your dear Heavenly Father for all your needs at all times of the day and night! Jesus is impressing upon us that God desires to hear from you! Yes, God gives His good gifts to us without our asking as Luther says in the Small Catechism. But God desires for us to ask Him for them always. For in our asking, we are showing God how we treasure the gift of prayer...how we treasure all that He gives us...and how we trust in Him to give us all that is good for our body and soul!

Do we need to be reminded to pray? How did Jesus describe us in our text again?

“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

Our sinful nature tells us to rely on ourselves and not ask God for help. And our sinful nature distracts us from hearing and talking with God. Didn't we just hear Jesus say last Sunday, **“Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things.”** But was Martha lifting these cares and worries to God in prayer? No, she was busy with

much serving...to busy to sit at the feet of Jesus with her sister and hear the Good News of the Gospel...to busy to ask Jesus for help.

Does that describe us sometimes? For Jesus desire us, His children, to choose the one needed thing...being served by Jesus with His salvation...and thanking Him in prayer for all that we have graciously received from Him.

Yes, by our new spirit given to us by the Holy Spirit, Jesus implores us to choose to come to church often to be served by Him the precious Gospel in Word and Sacrament. By our new spirit, God desires us to ask for the Holy Spirit...without ceasing. Jesus gives His Holy Spirit to those who...you guessed it...ask Him.

It's that simple. There's a big difference between knowing and doing. Right? People always say, "I know how to do that". Then the response comes... "Well, then do it." Christians know how to pray, will then let's pray. Let's seek, ask and knock.

Look how the level of Christian prayer rises in intensity...until our knocking reverberates on God's heavenly doors!

Listen to how Dr. Paul Kretzmann in his popular commentary describes prayer.
"The Christian's prayer must verge on impudence; it must be characterized by an unwearied perseverance, by an endurance which refuses to be discouraged, by a shameless disregard of God's apparent indifference."

Kretzmann also adds a quote from Luther:

"If even a man that loves his night's rest more than his friend can be moved to yield, since he cannot sleep on account of the importunate pleading: how much more the best Friend in heaven, who is all love toward His friends on earth?"

And you can read Kretzmann's Popular Lutheran Commentary of the entire Bible online through the Kretzmann Project.

If one asks to be given the Holy Spirit. What is one asking for? Everything! Everything that is needed! For the Holy Spirit gives all the gifts which Jesus has won for us by His death on the cross! He gives to us forgiveness for our slowness of prayer and lack of trust in our Heavenly Father. He gives us salvation for our souls that we are rescued from the dominion of this evil world and brought into His Kingdom of grace. Thy Kingdom come

to me through Your precious Word and Sacrament. Thy Kingdom come to me as I eat the very body of Jesus and drink His blood for my forgiveness and salvation!

And the Holy Spirit gives us the assurance of heaven itself with our heavenly Father where we will no longer need to talk to Him in prayer, but be in His very presence and speak to Him face to face!

What did Jesus say to Martha? **“Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.”** Not be taken away from her eternally, ever! We ask the Holy Spirit to come to us through Word and Sacrament and assure us over and over again, that this is true. For our evil sinful nature, causes us to doubt and not believe. Thy Kingdom of Glory also come, we are taught to pray!

Luther explains what the 2nd petition means in the Small Catechism.

–Answer: The kingdom of God comes indeed without our prayer, of itself; but we pray in this petition that it may come unto us also.

How is this done?

–Answer: When our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead a godly life here in time and yonder in eternity.

...When our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit...And He does as we hear His Word and believe it, and then lead a godly life, including a persistent prayer life, now, and without evil in eternity. There, we will no longer need to ask our Heavenly Father, for we will have all that is His!

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

What does this mean?

–Answer: The good and gracious will of God is done indeed without our prayer; but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

How is this done?

–Answer: When God breaks and hinders every evil counsel and will which would not let us hallow the name of God nor let His kingdom come, such as the will of the devil, the world, and our flesh; but strengthens and keeps us steadfast in His Word and in faith unto our end. This is His gracious and good will.

So, we lift our prayers to our Heavenly Father. For He indeed is our Father through Jesus shed blood. We lift up our prayers unabashedly and fervently for God desires us to seek, ask, and knock! And then we can be assured of this. What you ask will be received, found, and opened to you by your good and gracious Triune God.

We who are evil, who still have our sinful nature, know how to give good gifts to our children. We try to give what we think is best for our children...not too much that we would spoil them, and not too little that they would become discouraged and resentful to us, and not things that could harm them. Are we perfect at it? Not by a long shot.

And though we do so imperfectly, how much more, Jesus says, will the Heavenly Father give you His perfect gifts of forgiveness, salvation, defense from all temptation, and all that is needed for your lives in this world and eternally!

We pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance always! We pray for our children's spiritual well-being. We pray that we would give them the good teaching of God's Word, that they would know the Bible well, know God's Law and beautiful Gospel, and lead them to pray with us and trust in our heavenly Father, with us, for all our needs!

Thank you, dear Heavenly Father for always hearing and answering all our prayers, and above all, giving us Your greatest gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ. We pray in His name.
Amen

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Amen. (Philippians 4:7)