

# Christ Lutheran Church

127 N. Spring St., Klamath Falls, OR 97601

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May 2019

This month, we set aside a day (May 12) to thank God for His gift of our mothers. Again in June, we give thanks for our fathers. Certainly, every day of our lives we can be thankful for our parents, not only because through them God has provided for our temporal and earthly needs; but especially as, by His grace, He has worked through Christian parents to us bring us to His Word and Sacraments, and so nurture us for our spiritual and eternal good.

As we give thanks for earthly parents we remember that *"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning"* (James 1:17). He continues to provide through all the changing scenes of life. So we sing in the hymn, "Now Thank We All Our God..."

Who from our mother's arms  
Hath blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love  
And still is ours today.

Is this not an amazing thing, that we can call the Creator of the heavenly lights, the stars and planets, and the entire universe, "Our Father"?

As we begin a monthly contemplation of the Lord's Prayer, we see that this is just how God's only-begotten Son has taught us to address His Father – as *"Our Father, Who art in heaven."*

Jesus does not invite us to address God in vague and uncertain terms like Grand Architect or Designer, Great Spirit, or Unknowable One. He tenderly invites us to pray to God in the intimate language of family, as children speak to their dear father.

How can we so boldly and confidently pray to the Almighty God and address Him as *"Our Father"*? For He is so holy and perfect, and we are so sinful and imperfect! What about when Isaiah said: *"But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear. For your hands are defiled with*

*blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue has muttered perversity"* (Isaiah 59:2-3)? Do we not realize that with our hands we have done shameful things, hurt others, and withheld help from others? Do we not realize that with our lips we have spoken deceitfully and rashly? Do we not rather deserve for God to disown us forever? Do we not deserve to die for our sins?

How then can we fold our hands and utter with our tongues, *"Our Father"* and expect Him to hear and treat us as dear children?

Certainly, this blessing was not something we deserved. It is by His gift of grace alone.

Once again, God has provided His good and perfect gift by sending His Son into our flesh, to take away our sins. *"In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.*

*In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins"* (1 John 4:9-10).

By His gift of baptism and faith, God has cleansed away all our sins and claimed us as His children. *"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ"* (Galatians 3:26-27).

Therefore, we can pray boldly and confidently: *"For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father'"* (Romans 8:15). As children of our heavenly Father in Christ, we can cast all our cares on Him knowing that He loves us, understands our needs, and will answer as He knows best with every good and perfect gift until He brings us to His heavenly home!

In His love,  
Pastor Glenn Smith

## **The Lord's Prayer: Introduction**

*"Our Father, Who art in heaven"*

### **Catechism Explanation**

*"What does this mean?"*

God would hereby tenderly invite us to believe that He is our true Father, and that we are His true children, so that we may ask Him with all boldness and confidence, as children ask their dear father.

# The Benediction – Going Out with Peace



“Looks like you have a case of the Mondays!” Some people really loathe Mondays. The weekend is over. A stressful, long week lies ahead. For many people, it is rather depressing to wake up on a Monday morning.

Maybe it’s not Monday mornings for you, but you can probably relate to this feeling. Haven’t there been times in your life where you felt this way? Times when you felt burdened or overwhelmed? You might wonder, in near despair, how you might make it through the challenging things that lie ahead of you.

This kind of feeling can also affect us in a spiritual way. This feeling comes after making a bad decision. You feel guilty and burdened. Many people try to ignore this feeling. Many try to counter-balance it. Others try to wash this feeling away in a bottle of alcohol, or with drugs, or with some other moment of pleasure and self-gratification. But such things do not bring any lasting peace to the guilty conscience. In fact, it can drive people into deeper despair, feeling even more overwhelmed, lost, and hopeless! Christians however have found a different way to overcome this challenge.

They take these burdens to Jesus, who takes them to the cross!

This is why Christians gather together in church for worship. In the Divine Service the sinner gives his burdensome sins to Jesus; and in return, hears Jesus speak beautiful, comforting, reassuring words of peace. This is especially true with the closing words of every church service, the words of the Benediction:

*“The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord make His face shine upon you,  
And be gracious to you;  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you,  
And give you peace.”  
(Numbers 6:24-26)*

Jesus speaks through His messenger, the Pastor, assuring you that you can go out in peace! Even if it is a loathsome Monday morning, Jesus promises in His Benediction that He will be with you through it all. He will be blessing you, keeping you, shining His love upon you, looking upon you with favor, and giving you peace!

*Thank you Lord for the comfort You give in  
Your Benediction, assuring me of Your  
peace. Amen.*

*(From the Evangelical Lutheran Synod's  
Board for Home Outreach)*

May 2019

Christ Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>"Now thank we all our God With heart and hands and voices, Who wondrous things hath done, In whom His world rejoices, Who from our mother's arms Hath blessed us on our way With countless gifts of love And still is ours today." (ELH Hymn # 63)</i></p>			<p>1  Youth Catechism 4:00 PM</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3  Jesus Cares Ministry for Special Needs 2:00 PM</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 <i>Easter 3</i> Worship with Communion 9:30 AM Sunday School &amp; Bible Class 10:45 AM Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM <i>Happy Anniversary Wally &amp; Adeena Klein Happy Birthday Gavin Eubanks</i></p>	<p>6 <i>Happy Anniversary Neal &amp; Sue Eberlein</i></p>	<p>7 <i>Happy Birthday Christina Bednar</i></p>	<p>8  Youth Catechism 4:00 PM</p>	<p>9  Rogue River Place Outreach Event 2:30 PM</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 <i>Easter 4</i> <i>Mother's Day</i> Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School &amp; Bible Class 10:45 AM Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM <i>Happy Birthday Steve Currie</i></p>	<p>13 <i>Happy Birthday Bethany Harrington</i></p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15  Youth Catechism 4:00 PM</p>	<p>16  CLWMS Women's Meeting 3:30 PM</p>	<p>17 <i>Happy Birthday Pat Burks</i></p>	<p>18 <i>Happy Birthday Jacob Klein</i></p>
<p>19 <i>Easter 5</i> Worship with Communion 9:30 AM Voters Meeting followed by Meal After worship Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22  Youth Catechism 4:00 PM</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 <i>Easter 6</i> Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School &amp; Bible Class 10:45 AM Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM</p>	<p>27 <i>Memorial Day</i></p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 <i>Ascension of Our Lord</i></p>	<p>31</p>	

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