

Christ Lutheran Church

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

(541) 884-1635 www.lutherankf.org

August 2019

"*Thy will be done.*" This is one of the hardest things to pray. Sinful man would rather embrace that man-centered spirit of Humanism that says: "I am the master of my fate; I am the captain of my soul." We would like to think we know best how things should be and that our will should be done in all things.

But this petition of the Lord's Prayer says decidedly: "*Our Father who art in heaven...* You know best. You are infinitely wise and powerful; and as the God of my salvation, You are in control for my good. So... *Thy will be done.*" We sing the spirit of this petition in the hymn verse (ELH 519):

*What God ordains is always good:
His will abideth holy.
As He directs my life for me,
I follow meek and lowly.
My God indeed In ev'ry need
Doth well know how to shield me;
To Him, then, I will yield me.*

Indeed, God's will always is being done. He is in control of all things in the universe. Every star and planet is in its place because He wills it. Not a hair falls from our head apart from His sovereign will.

Ultimately, He is working His will in all things for the good of His Church – all whom He has brought into His Kingdom of Grace by His Holy Spirit, through baptism and faith in His Son.

Therefore, we pray in this petition that His good and gracious will may be done also among us. For the enemies of His Kingdom battle against His will and against our spiritual and eternal good. God wills that we hallow His Name, by teaching His Word purely and living holy lives according to it. God wills that His Kingdom come to us and others, as we believe His Word of salvation in Jesus. But the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh – by their evil counsel and will – fight to deceive and lead us away from His good and gracious will. They work to prevent the spread of His Gospel and hinder saving faith in Jesus.

Despite every opposition to God's will by His enemies, not even the gates of hell shall prevail against Christ's Church (Matthew 16:18). He will at last bring His own into His Church Triumphant in heaven. This is His good and gracious will for us.

All this leads us to see that we are not the masters of our fate or captains of our soul. We need God graciously to work all things out for our good. When we find ourselves discontented, self-pitying, thinking we know better than God how things should be, our focus is wrong. In this petition, we pray as repentant believers that God would help us submit to His will; for apart from His will we have no good.

We are reminded of God's ultimate act of goodwill for us, when He sent His Son to die on the cross to save us from sin and death. Remember Jesus' prayer as He faced His suffering? "*Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done*" (Luke 22:42). In the Son's perfect submission and

obedience, the Father's good and gracious will is fulfilled for us. In Jesus, we have God's gift of forgiveness and eternal life.

As those redeemed from Satan's kingdom by Jesus' blood, claimed as God's precious children by faith, now we can pray with Jesus: "*Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.*" For we know that in all things, our Father in heaven is working His good and gracious will for us, in time and eternity. So we sing:

*What God ordains is always good:
This truth remains unshaken.
Though sorrow, need, or death be mine,
I shall not be forsaken.
I fear no harm, For with His arm
He shall embrace and shield me;
So to my God I yield me. Amen.*

Pastor Smith

The Lord's Prayer: Third Petition

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

Catechism Explanation:

What does this mean?

The good and gracious will of God is certainly done without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done also among us.

How is God's will done?

God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil counsel and will, which would not let us hallow His name nor let His kingdom come, such as the will of the devil, the world and our own flesh; but strengthens and keeps us steadfast in His Word and in faith until our end. This is His good and gracious will.

Why Does God Let Bad Things Happen to Good People?

(A Newsletter from our Evangelical Lutheran Synod's Board for Home Outreach)

We've all heard about or witnessed tragic situations: a young mother is taken away from her family by cancer. A father suffers a horrible accident and is killed. A teenager contracts a terrible infection that leaves him paralyzed from the waist down. A little baby is born with serious birth defects. Where is God in all of these situations? Why does He let good people suffer so much?

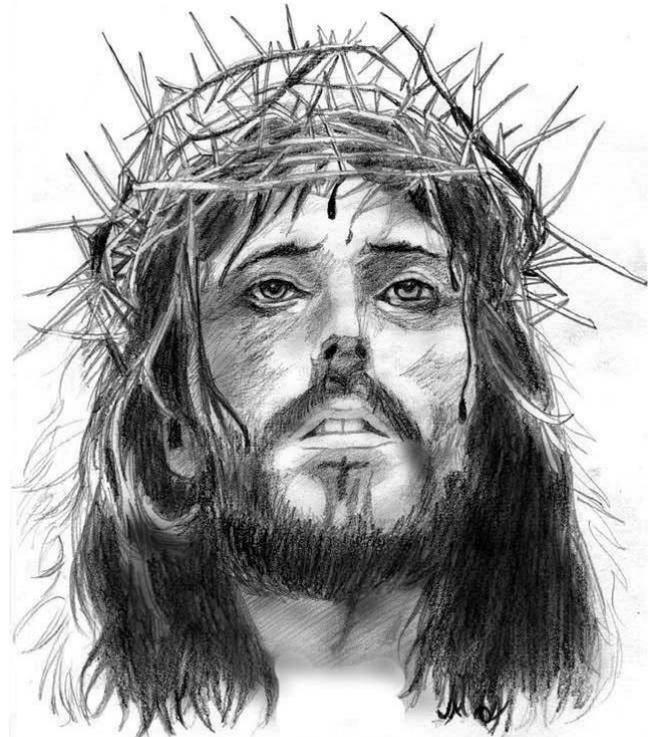
When God created the world He didn't intend anyone to suffer. He created man and woman as perfect creatures and placed them in a perfect world. But that perfect world with its perfect people didn't last long. After being tempted by the devil, the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, sinned against God. They did exactly what God had told them not to and brought sin, death, pain, and suffering into the world. On top of that, they were now bound to spend eternity in hell when they died.

But God, the creator of not just our world but of the entire universe, loved the people He created too much to leave them helpless and hopeless. He promised to send a Savior - His very own Son. Jesus Christ, the best person that ever lived (since He was also God), was sent by His Father to fix the mess people had gotten themselves into. He lived His entire life without ever sinning. And then God let the worst happen to His Son: He sent Him to suffer on the cross. Jesus suffered not

just physical pain but also the pain of hell, of being separated from God.

Why did God allow these bad things to happen to His good Son? Jesus suffered and died in *our* place. God gives us the gift of eternal life through faith in His Son. We live now and we will live forever with Him in heaven.

And yes, there will still be "bad" things that happen to us while we live in this world. The sin and suffering that Adam and Eve brought into the world still affects everyone. But because God loves us, He sent Jesus to suffer instead of us. Because of what Jesus has done, we know that all the "bad" has been overcome by good. Believe in Jesus and live!



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>“Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”</i> <i>Matthew 6:10</i></p>				1 Rogue River Place Outreach Event 2:30 PM	2 Jesus Cares Ministry for Special Needs 2:00 PM	3
4 <i>Pentecost 8</i> Worship with Communion 9:30 AM Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM	5	6	7 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Colton Harrington	8	9 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Church Rummage Sale Friday: 8:00 AM-2:00 PM Saturday: 8:00 AM-12:00 PM </div>	10 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Donivan Gerhardt
11 <i>Pentecost 9</i> Worship with Communion 9:30 AM Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM	12	13 Council Meeting 4:30 PM	14	15 <i>Happy Anniversary</i> Dale & Bobbie Hauck <i>Happy Anniversary</i> Clark & Rita Pederson	16	17
18 <i>Pentecost 10</i> Worship 9:30 AM	19	20 <i>Happy Anniversary</i> Robert & Sara Shepard	21	22	23	24 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Michael Harrington
25 <i>Pentecost 11</i> Worship 9:30 AM Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM	26	27	28	29 CLWMS Women's Meeting 3:30 PM	30	31

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