

Christ Lutheran Church

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

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September 2019

"Give us this day our daily bread." This fourth petition of the Lord's Prayer stands in the middle of the seven Jesus taught us to pray. It is unique in asking for temporal blessings. The petitions of the Lord's Prayer are actually 6-1 in favor of spiritual blessings. How often do we reverse the order, praying 6-1 in favor of temporal blessings?

We spend a lot of time and energy focusing on "our daily bread" – whether it is thinking about what we want, earning money to buy it, getting and preparing it for ourselves, etc.

Certainly, our Father in heaven also is interested in satisfying our needs of body and life. But He would have us keep our daily bread in proper perspective next to our spiritual and eternal needs.

As Luther's explanation indicates, "daily bread" really includes everything needed for this life. We would not have bread for our table unless God gave *fields, cattle, and good weather* for our crops, and farmers and others through whom He brings His gifts to us. And what good would all the food produced do us unless He also provided for us *good government, peace and order*? This is seen in war-torn countries when normally well fed citizens starve for lack of food, or in countries ruled by cruel dictators who do not let food get to their people but hoard it for themselves. Again, how can we truly enjoy our *food, drink, house, home, money, goods*, or anything we have, if we are not also blessed with a *God-fearing spouse and children, true friends, good neighbors, and the like* with whom to share them? How often, even the most well-off people are unable truly to enjoy their abundance because of stress at work, lack of peace in their neighborhood, strife with friends, and unrest with the closest relations in their own home.

So when it comes down to it, Jesus would teach us in this petition to think even of our daily bread in

spiritual terms – to think of every need of this life in terms of that higher relationship He gives with "Our Father who art in heaven." "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights" (James 1:17). Without a right relationship with Him, we would have nothing good.

The Lord's Prayer

Fourth Petition:

"Give us this day our daily bread"

Catechism Explanation:

What does this mean?

God certainly gives daily bread without our prayer, even to all the wicked; but we pray in this petition that He would lead us to acknowledge this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What is meant by daily bread?

Daily bread includes everything needed for this life; such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, fields, cattle, money, goods, God-fearing spouse and children, faithful servants and rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, order, honor, true friends, good neighbors, and the like.

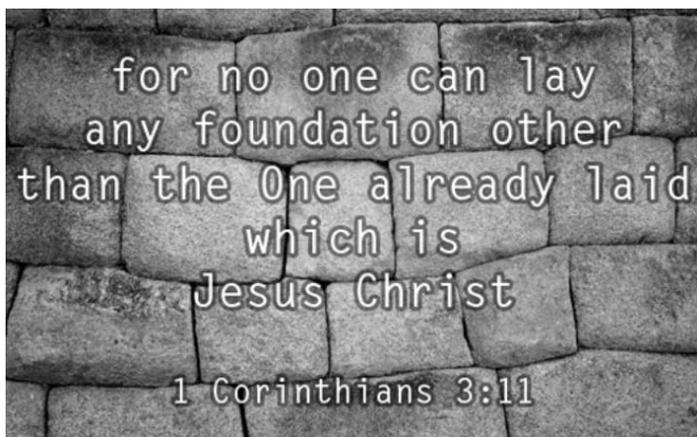
Truly, our Father provides every need of life for all people, even for unbelievers who ignore Him and hate His truth. Jesus says: "Your Father in heaven... makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Matthew 5:45). But Jesus enables us to receive His good gifts with true faith and proper thanksgiving.

Above all, we thank our Father in heaven for giving us us the best gift of His own Son as our Savior. For every way we have failed to trust God for the needs of body and life, for every way we have sought earthly gain with dishonest or greedy motives, for every way we have sought first an earthly

kingdom rather than His heavenly kingdom, God gave His Son to die on the cross for us. Jesus saved us from the eternal death we deserved for our sins. In the power of His forgiveness, in the power of His resurrection, He says: "I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever" (John 6:51). By faith we partake of His eternal life.

So in every need of body and life, let us pray with confidence and thanksgiving as Jesus taught us: "Give us this day our daily bread." For we have His promise: "He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" (Romans 8:32)

In His loving care,
Pastor Smith



This world is filled with shiny things. Things that are designed to catch our eye and demand our attention. All it takes is a quick look around your daily life to realize that these things work. Commercials, end cap displays, billboards, and pop-up ads don't ask to be looked at – their ability to capture our eyeballs is well documented and is utilized by companies everywhere.

The message we get over and over again is that this shiny thing in front of us will fill us up, will make us content. You are so close to a breakthrough in your life where you have all you want – you just need a little bit more. But we know from experience that more is never enough; those shiny things quickly lose their luster.

The Apostle Paul warned the church in Corinth about this exact thing. He was writing about the foundation of our life. We are so tempted to try and build a life that is based on the shiny things like *“gold, silver, and costly stones”* (1 Corinthians 3:12). But these things will fail us. They will always leave us with that feeling that we need just a little bit more.

Paul suggests another foundation – the only foundation that lasts, the only one that truly works. If we need something on which to build our life, Jesus is the only answer. As he traveled from city to city preaching and teaching, this is the foundation Paul laid. 1

Corinthians 3:11 says, *“In fact, no one can lay any other foundation than the one that has been laid, which is Jesus Christ.”*

The wonderful thing about building your life on Jesus Christ is the confidence and security that comes from knowing that He cannot fail you. When Jesus came, He did so to fight your battles, to struggle against all the challenges and temptations that you face daily. He did so to take your place; to stand before God as someone who is righteous, as someone who is holy, and yet to take your punishment and your blame. Jesus fought against sin, death, and the devil on your behalf and came out victorious. And what is even more comforting is that He didn't stop serving you there. He promises to come to you through Word and Sacrament to deliver to you that forgiveness, that victory that He won. He promises to work through these things to strengthen you in your faith and to build upon that foundation as you grow in faith and knowledge of Him.

When our life is built on Christ, there is nothing that can shake us. The world will change around us, our lives and circumstances will shift like sand, but our foundation will always remain secure. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. His luster will never fade. Instead His true glory, the glory that is His as our God and Lord, will be fully revealed on that day when we are welcomed into His Kingdom. That is a foundation we can count on.

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

September 2019

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>Pentecost 11</i> Worship with Communion 9:30 AM Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM	2 <i>Labor Day</i>	3	4 Youth Catechism 4:00 PM	5	6 Jesus Cares Ministry for Special Needs 2:00 PM	7 <i>Happy Birthday Gabriel Smith</i>
8 <i>Pentecost 12</i> Worship 9:30 AM Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM	9	10 <i>Happy Anniversary Richard & Margaret Howard</i>	11 Youth Catechism 4:00 PM	12 Rogue River Place Outreach Event 2:30 PM	13	14 <i>Happy Birthday Philip Smith</i>
15 <i>Pentecost 13</i> Worship with Communion 9:30 AM Congregational Meeting and Meal After church Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM	16	17	18 Youth Catechism 4:00 PM	19	20 Pastors Meeting Myrtle Creek	21
22 <i>Pentecost 14</i> Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM	23 <i>Happy Birthday Susan Reeder</i>	24	25 Youth Catechism 4:00 PM	26	27	28 Women's Missionary Society Rally Concordia Lutheran Hood River, OR
29 <i>Pentecost 15</i> Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM	30	<p><i>"I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever." (John 6:51)</i></p>				

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