

Martin Luther and C. S. Lewis
Praying the Lord's Prayer as Jazz

If you run through the petitions of all holy prayers, I believe you will find nothing that is not summed up and contained in the Lord's Prayer.

—Augustine

The Lord's Prayer is the quintessence of prayer. A disciple's prayer is founded on and circumscribed by it.

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Welcome and Invitation: "Lord, teach us to pray."

Our Father who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

1. Introductory notes on the Lord's Prayer and its structure

"Last night, going to bed alone, I suddenly found myself (I was taking off my waistcoat) reciting the Lord's Prayer, in a loud, emphatic voice – a thing I had not done for many years – with deep urgency and profound and disturbed emotion. While I went on I grew more composed; as if it had been empty and craving and were being replenished, my soul grew still; every word had a strange fullness of meaning that astonished and delighted me. It was late; I had sat up reading; I was sleepy; but as I stood in the middle of the floor half undressed saying the prayer over and over, meaning after meaning sprang from it; overcoming me again with joyful surprise; and I realized that simple petition was always universal and always inexhaustible, and day by day sanctified human life." Edwin Muir's *Autobiography* (1964).

—The Lord of the Lord's Prayer: we pray with Christ, in the name of Christ, incorporate in Christ

—The Structure of the Lord's Prayer: contemplation and action

2. Martin Luther's advice to Master Peter, the barber on how to pray

—garland of instruction, gratitude, confession, petition

3. "Festooning" the Lord's Prayer in C. S. Lewis

—festooning: "here" meaning in my heart, in this college, in England, in the world in general.

4. Using the Lord's Prayer as a structure for our devotional prayers: The Lord's Prayer as Jazz

Our Father who art in heaven,

- (1) hallowed be thy name.
- (2) Thy kingdom come.
- (3) Thy will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

- (4) Give us this day our daily bread,
- (5) and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us,
- (6) and lead us not into temptation,
- (7) but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.