

The Lord's Prayer... in other words

From Soul Sabbatical, 2015

Becoming Jesus' Prayer: Transforming Your Life Through the Lord's Prayer

During Lent, about 40 people participated in a three-week small group experience on The Lord's Prayer. At the conclusion of the experience a number of participants put this familiar prayer into their own words incorporating insights from some of the conversations and readings and reflections that they had shared. During Eastertide the prayers have surrounded us each Sunday as we gather for worship. As we take them down to welcome the season of Pentecost, we offer them once more for your reflection. Perhaps you might consider finding your own words for the prayer that Jesus once taught us.

Jesus' Prayer in Springtime

Eden's Gardener,
Ground breaker, Seed sower, Life giver,
Your Passionate Love be praised!
Plant deep within us Your vision.
With vigilance prune all
that chokes Love's tender offerings.

With living water and bread broken,
nourish us as each day requires.
Again and again, clear space for us
to take root anew and to grow.
Warm our hearts with your "Yes"
as we prepare ground for others
to flourish, to bear the good fruit
of their own lives.

Keep watch over our maturing.
Correct our wayward thoughts and actions.
Disentangle us from all that obscures the vision that You have planted
with Hope within us.
May all of this world
reflect the Heart that brought us to being.
May creation blaze with the
transforming power of the Love that is Your Name.
So be it!



~ Linda Champion, Lenten Journey 2015

Our Creator,
 who is in all things and everywhere,
Holy is your name.
May Your Realm be established
 and Your Will be done,
Through us, in this world,
 as it is in Heaven.
Give us, today, our daily needs
 and forgive us
 when we stray from your will
 as we forgive those who offend us.
Lead us not
 into the temptations of this world
But deliver us
 from that which would harm
 our soul and body.
Amen.

~ Gerry Granfors, Soul Sabbatical, 2015

O God, who dwells above, below and within our world, let us hold sacred your name;
Bring forth your realm of justice and mercy and kindness;
Let what you desire for this world be done, so that your ways become our ways;
Give us the sustenance we need each day, and the wisdom to know what won't nourish life;
Touch us with your forgiving hand when we do wrong, and warm our hearts so we may forgive others when we feel wronged;
Give us the courage not to be tempted to do what is evil; and if we falter, guide us to what is right;
For yours is a wondrous realm, glorious to behold, gentle but full of power, and so it has been from the beginning, is now, and forever shall be. Amen.

~ Jonathan Guest, *Soul Sabbatical*, 2015

Oh, great and gracious Allah,
You are the God of our ancestors, God of life today, and God of future generations,
You give life and shower down grace upon us from on high.
Bless the Lord, O my soul; Bless God's holy name.
Let us find ourselves in your presence,
and let your will be known by your people.
Let your justice roll down like waters
and your righteousness like an ever flowing stream.
Give us this day, that for which we truly hunger.
Forgive our shortcomings,
and help us show forgiveness and kindness to our foes.
Show us how to lay aside worldly things to find Peace in you.
All-knowing, all-loving, all powerful God,
you are our strength and salvation! Amen.

~ Saralyn Keller, *Soul Sabbatical* 2015

This is a prayer.
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
I ask that mysterious Power, whose existence I have affirmed and whose manifestations I have sought with the deepest and strongest powers of my soul,
Thy Kingdom come,
To guide me in the right path, to show me a way to open up the gates of my soul, my true strength,
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.
So that I may give to those I love all that I am, and not lose, by giving, the strength to give that love.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Ground my strength in love, and let my love shine through the affirmation of who I am.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors,
So that I may be forgiven, and my more willingly forgive.
Lead us not into temptation,
For all my strength derives from the love I feel in that Power to whom I pray, and the love I give to those around me.
But deliver us from evil.
Help me pray again. Amen.

~ David Coulter, *Soul Sabbatical*, 2015
(written March 16, 1973)

Sweet Breath of Life, whom we share with all
who have come before and all who will follow,
 wherever you are is heaven.
 wherever you dwell is holy.
Every moment you birth a new beginning.
Your desire for us is our own heart's deepest longing.
Help us discover the extraordinary
 tucked into the ordinary.

Make us mindful
 that everything that has ever blessed our lives
 comes as a gift from you –
 this breath, this chance,
 this choice that unfolds here and now.

We have made mistakes and broken promises
 and failed to become who we really are,
 but you set us free from fear, from regret,
 from our need to be the hero of our own stories.

Help us see others as you see us and set them free.

Keep us from giving up and giving in
 when the challenge is great and the journey is long.

Never let us underestimate
 the power of the poison of despair.

You shine in all that is, that ever was
and that ever will be,
 for your word shall be the last word
 and the last word is always love. So be it.

~ Vicky Guest, *Soul Sabbatical*, 2015

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Loving Creator, who lives in us and sustains us, we praise
you and thank you for your all-encompassing care for us.

Thy Kingdom come,

We pray now that the peaceable Kingdom, which consists of your eternal love for all creation, will come to us and
guide us to do what you ask of us, joining us together in all of our diversity.

Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.

Send the Holy Spirit to show us how to do your will today and every day. Not our will but your will be done. Give
us the strength to love others as you love them. Help us to work for universal peace, justice and equality in
accordance with your will.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Grant to us today what you know we need to nourish us, body, mind and soul, so that we may follow the path that you
have made for us.

Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

We trust in your forgiveness for the times when we have been unkind or unfaithful to your Word. Help us to forgive
ourselves, as we continue (with your help) to forgive those who have been unkind to us.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Do not let our faith in you be tested again in times of trial, through our weakness, but rather fill us with your love,
which will keep us safe today, tomorrow and forever.

For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory.

For we believe in the love that is from God, of God and to God, forever and ever. Amen.

~ David Coulter, *Soul Sabbatical*, 2015

Light of the world,
Light that shines through the darkest of nights.
Light that shines on the brightest of days.
Light that shines on all people.
Lead us to your ever-flowing spring.
Show us our limitless love.
Guide us to your lasting peace.
Now and forever. Amen.

~ Ric Ripley, Soul Sabbatical 2015

Beloved God, who reign in Heaven with our loved ones,
Guide us on your righteous path.
Let us know that you are there in our darkest hours,
And help us spread your joy in our times of bliss.
Remind us, Lord, to forgive ourselves and others
The same way you forgive us.
Always and forever,
We feel your love shine through. Amen.

~ Lisa Lavezzo, Soul Sabbatical 2015

Draw near to me O God.
You are the Living God, the unnamable God;
the One who gives me life and breath;
the One who shows grace and mercy to all.

I yearn for your presence.
Be in me, that I might know your will and
understand your desires for me.
Fill me today, all day and every day.
Show me your way
and keep me close to your loving side.
Help me stand up for justice in this world.
Forgive my shortcomings
and show me how to change myself.
Help me show forgiveness to my enemies.
Show me how to lay aside worldly things
and find peace with you.

All-knowing, all-loving, all-powerful God,
You are my strength and my salvation! Amen.

~ Saralyn Keller, Soul Sabbatical 2015

Wise Parent watching over all of us, your children, from the place of peace we seek to enter into,
Revered and respected should you be throughout the universe you created for us.
May our world come to emulate your world, and your people behave as you would want us to, acting in your image and
following the ideals you have established over the years through your messengers and prophets and your ever-present Spirit.
Provide for our needs, fill our souls with your spirit, and help us to support our neighbors to meet their needs.
Guide us to let go of the hurts others commit against us, and help us to right the wrongs we commit.
Keep us safe and channel our efforts into doing your good works, rather than succumbing to the lure of actions we know are
sinful.
For you are great, and powerful, and deserving of our love and admiration.
This day, and every day. Time un-ending. Amen.

~ Bob Seiche, Soul Sabbatical 2015