

POSSIBLE Prayer of the Church Rogaté 6th Sunday of Easter 8 May 10 2026

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

LORD of hosts, You have saved us from slavery to sin and death by the resurrection of Christ. When You lead us through the wilderness of life, teach us to cry out in faith, not doubting Your desire and power to sustain us. **LORD, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

LORD, equip pastors and all who serve us in Christ's name, that they would faithfully deliver to us the fruits of His redeeming work. Prepare the hearts of those who will hear and heed His call to service in this generation. **LORD, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, Your Son in His incarnation took on our human flesh and was born of the Virgin Mary. He submitted to His mother, honoring and obeying her, so fulfilling the commandment where we have not. On this Mother's Day, graciously accept our thanksgiving for our mothers, whom You have given to us. Teach us to honor them aright - loving, obeying and giving thanks for them, as is fitting in Your sight. Strengthen all women with child, and give them safe delivery. Comfort all women who long to have children but cannot, that they may find their consolation in You and Your unfailing love; **LORD, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

LORD of all, bless our nation and its citizens. Give us good leaders, satisfying work, loving families, and a peaceful and quiet life that glorifies Your name. **LORD, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Listening LORD, You always wait upon the prayers of Your people and attend to their cries. *We pray especially for **Faith & Our Savior Prayers** ... and all those we each name and keep in our hearts in personal prayer.* Inspire us to pray in all seasons of life and through all trials, giving us faith in Your promise to answer us. **LORD, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

O LORD, You graciously provide us with the gift of Christ's true body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. Grant us repentance and faith as we commune this day, that we may receive His precious gifts. **LORD, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, we rejoice in the witness of the faithful who have gone before us in the faith. Bring us soon to be with all those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. **LORD, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, You have attended to the voice of our prayers, for You have commanded us to pray and have promised to hear us. Let Your mercy comfort and sustain us in prayer, that we may heartily and fervently pray to You at all times and in all places, not doubting but trusting in Your promise; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our LORD, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

EASTER-6 ROGATÉ WHAT IT MEANS TO PRAY IN JESUS' NAME? 5.9.26 F.OS.L

PRAYER Dear Heavenly Father, forgive us for the times we have not come to you in prayer. Help us by Your Holy Spirit to present our requests and thanks to you. Because through your Son Jesus Christ we have forgiveness and eternal life. **In Whose Name we pray, Amen.**

I. "Until now you have not asked for ANYTHING IN MY NAME,"

USE AS NEEDED Sometimes prayer can also be viewed as a **spare tire** riding in your trunk. When you need it, it's there. When things are "rolling along" just fine, health is good, job is good, family is good, we may not have much (or *any*) use for praying. That's often the way it is for us sinful humans. We at times are **stubborn and independent**. Our sinful nature doesn't like to ask for help, but thinks we can figure everything out for ourselves. **The devil, the world and our sinful flesh want us NOT to pray to our Heavenly Father.**

PRAYER = WORSHIP Let's not forget **what prayer is** for us. It is an **act of Worship** (Confirmands know this from III. (Lord's) **Prayer**) in which we speak to God **from the heart, confessing our sins, thanking** Him for His mercies, or **asking** something of Him. **Philippians 4:6** tells us: "**Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.**"

"I'N"? Jesus says (in our text), "**Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My Name He will give you.**" So, **What does that mean?** What does it mean to pray "**In Jesus' Name?**" Well, the Epistle of **James** helps us to answer that question. First of all James tells us what Christian prayer is **not**. He says, "**When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.**" [James 4:3-4] Prayer in Jesus' Name is **not** simply a blank check to fulfill worldly dreams and desires. We must confess that too often that's how we utilize prayer, to **try to get God to follow our will** rather than asking Him to **conform us to His Will**, to get Him to make our plans come to fulfillment rather than seeking our place in the fulfillment of *His* plan of salvation. We need to remember, too, that prayer is not only about asking for ourselves but **also asking for others** in their need, just as **Jesus is our Mediator** before the Father in Heaven.

WEAK PRAYERS [H.S.] In God's Word we have many examples of prayer requests, for various things and reasons [some good, some bad]. The Holy **Spirit helps us in our weakness** because we may be tempted to pray to other people or to things. We may consider praying to an idol, whether a piece of rock or statue, praying to certain angels, saints or the dead. But God tells us in **Matthew 4:10, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only."** That includes prayers. In **Revelation 22:8-9, John** was instructed **not** to worship before the feet of an angel, instead worship God.

"**INTERCEDE**" MEANS... We need Christ's and the Holy Spirit's help in our weakness, interceding for us. **INTERCEDE** means 'to plead or make a request in behalf of another or others.' We have people in life today who do this "interceding for us," **negotiators, ambassadors, lawyers etc.** Without Jesus interceding for us we might be tempted to pray for **some pretty foolish things.**

Foolish because there may be little or no thought for what we are asking, praying for harm of another person or persons, to get a candy, to name a couple. Remember the example of the foolish request of the mother of the disciples, James and John, in **Matthew 20:20-23**? Without much apparent thought, she asked for her sons to **sit on Christ's right and left** in Heaven. Wasn't it enough, just to be His disciple/s?

MEDIATOR-SHIP And that's what He means in **verses 23b, 24 & 26a**. In fact, Jesus' "Mediator-ship" is **so complete** that we can now go directly to the Father. We are the Father's dear children in Christ Jesus. That's what Jesus means in **verses 26 & 27** of our text. As **Luther says: "We can come to our Heavenly Father as earthly children approach their earthly father."** Or **Hebrews 10:19-22**, "Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the Blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his Body, 21 and since we have a Great Priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water."

PRAYER SOURCES: That's one reason God **gave us His Word** in the Holy Bible, where we have, for example, the **Book of Psalms to use** as Prayers. And with Jesus interceding for us it is **heard as perfect** to the Ears of God. He and the Spirit also helps us in our thanks to our Heavenly Father. "**He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.**" [Romans 8:27] Other prayer sources: **Hymns** (Hymnal), **Liturgical Songs** [e.g. Magnificat, Te Deum], **Worship Prayers** [e.g. Prayer of the Church], **Prayer & Devotion Books** [Laache Book of Family Prayer], **Luther's Prayers & Table Prayers**.
II. "Ask ANYTHING in MY/Jesus' Name and it WILL BE GIVEN YOU."

PRAYER SURVEY: A website recently asked visitors, 'when they most often pray?' See if you can find yourself in any of these categories. Here's what they said: Whenever the Spirit prompts me **45%**; At bedtime **23%**; In the morning **18%**; During my commute **11%**; Before meals **1%**. [ChristianReader]

TY Sometimes we may pray giving thanks to God only after an illness, at a special meal, or event. But, **Why not say Thanks more often?** Our sinful flesh likes to take credit for everything, and fails to give credit where credit is due ... **To God**. In **Luke 17: 11-19**, **ten lepers** called out to Jesus, asking to be healed. Out of the ten that were healed, **only one came back to give thanks**. We can similarly give thanks according to **Psalms 107:1**, "**Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.**"

"WHAT TO SAY?" Sometimes when we survey the rough playing fields of our lives and feel a deep need to speak with God, the words just don't come. Nothing worthy of God's attention springs to mind, even when we have everything to give thanks for. Our overloaded or stressed minds may not be able to assemble the thoughts in the form of a prayer. Our lips remain empty. It is only by the power of the Holy Spirit and in Our Savior's Name that we are able and willing to pray, saying thanks, either with written prayers or from our own heart. [ex corde prayer]

WHY WE PRAY Being one with the Father we have comfort in knowing that by the help of Jesus and the Holy Spirit our prayers **ARE**

ACCEPTABLE. He enters the Throne Room of our Heavenly Father, knowing the burdens that weigh upon our hearts. He prays on our behalf, according to God's promise to help believers in Christ. **The Spirit assembles our groans and sighs into understandable prayers**, and God knows the Mind of the Spirit perfectly. There are no misunderstandings or miscommunications, because Jesus is our Mediator and the Spirit is our Messenger, making our prayers acceptable and honorable to God. Praying for what is good for us all, **according to His good and gracious Will**. That is why we pray the way we do when we come together in **public Divine Worship**.

FOR WHAT WE PRAY Let us then learn what to pray for in our weakness, and give thanks during good and **ALL times**, so that our prayers may not be like a spare tire, which is around **only when we need it**. When we pray for that **which is necessary for salvation**, sending of the Holy Spirit, forgiveness and eternal life, we should ask **freely and often, and without condition**. When we pray for all other gifts, such as, material things, these we should ask that God grant them **IF it is His Good and Gracious Will [conditionally]**. Even though we are sinful human beings, breaking God's commands, and deserve nothing, He sent His Son Jesus Christ to cleanse us from the guilt and stain of sin. The **Great Exchange** of our sin for His perfection assures us of forgiveness and eternal life with God, and gives us the ability to approach our holy, just God in prayer.

HOW WE PRAY You may not trust **answering machines, voicemail or email or text messages** to deliver important messages. You may want to know that the person hears your message. So also with our prayers to our Heavenly Father, Jesus and His Spirit are on our side so that our thoughts, with worries, needs and thanks **will always get through**, "in accordance with God's Will." God loves to hear our voice speaking to Him **just as** He speaks to us in His Word. "**He is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.**" [Ephesians 3:20] He assures us in **Psalms 50:15**, "**Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor Me.**"

WHAT DOES IJ'N MEAN? To pray in **Jesus' Name**, then, means to pray **with faith in Him** as the **only** Mediator, the **only way back** to the Father. And ultimately, to pray in Jesus' Name means that **you pray as if you were Jesus Himself!** When you call God "Father," you are certainly praying as though you were Christ. For He is, as we know, the only Son of the Father. The only way legitimately to call God our Father is to **gain Christ's permission to pray in His stead**. That privilege is granted to you **by your Baptism - In Jesus' Name**.

CONCL./BAPTISM CUSTOM There's an ancient custom which we still use **at BAPTISM**, where the **pastor lays his hands upon the child's head while praying the Lord's Prayer**. That is meant as a visual declaration that the gift of calling God "Father" is being given to the one Baptized. Now s/he, too, is given permission to pray the Lord's Prayer. It's as if Jesus is giving you His ID card and social security number at the Font. That's **Good "Identity Theft"** - In Jesus you are counted as sons and daughters of God with all the benefits that entails. God hears you just like He hears Jesus. The Name of Jesus opens Heaven to you. It unlocks the door to the Father's heart. Jesus says: "**I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in My Name.**" [John 16:23] And, "**Pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's Will for you in Christ Jesus.**" [I Thessalonians 5:17-18]. May we always value, use regularly, and thank God for the gift of Prayer. **IJ'N, Amen. SDG**