

The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 12)
 Year of the Lord 2019
 Luke 11

1 Eternal Spirit of the living Christ,
 I know not how to ask or what to say;
 I only know my need, as deep as life,
 And only You can teach me how to pray.

2 Come, pray in me the prayer I need this day;
 Help me to see Your purpose and Your will--
 Where I have failed, what I have done amiss;
 Held in forgiving love, let me be still.

3 Come with the strength I lack, bring vision clear
 Of human need; O give me eyes to see
 Fulfillment of my life in love outpoured,
 My life in You, O Christ; Your love in me.

11 Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." ² And he said to them, "When you pray, say:

"Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread,

⁴ and forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

And lead us not into temptation."

⁵ And he said to them, "Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves, ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; ⁷ and he will answer from within, 'Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything'? ⁸ I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. ⁹ And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹ What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; ¹² or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, who are

evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”¹

In the Name of Jesus:

A word must have been left out of Jesus’ reply to that one disciple; must have been too obvious and understood. That word was ‘NO!’ “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” Nope! Not as John. HE was baptized with whatever authority John had been given. WE have been baptized at His authority, in His Name! So...not as John! Instead, as Jesus!

² And he said to them, “When you pray, say...” And then the Lord was very much The Lord, putting the very words to say into that one disciple’s mouth; into mouths of many. To whom belong also His Body given and Blood poured out! Words, yes! But, as the Lord calls these words: Holy Spirit-receivers! ‘How much more will the Heavenly Father GIVE The Holy Spirit to those who ask of Him?!’

Another Word is ‘impudence!’ Word...Holy Spirit...impudence... NOW we’re prayin’! For NOW...we even know what the Lord Himself was praying by Himself that day. Not TO Himself! But to ‘Father!’ The FIRST WORD that pleases heaven and announces peace to men and God’s good will toward them!

Personal insight here: your pastor is not a fan of horror type movies and TV and such. One of the reasons is that it’s all so boring to me. Waddling over to the treadmill this week, there was some sort of thing like that on the wall monitor. People with fangs, and horns, and faces looking—I guess!—scary. If only THAT was what I had to worry about! ‘Oh, no! A scowling person with bad teeth!’ Others can truly frighten me.

How long do you need to watch the acting of religious type people before no demon from the pit can make you jump at ‘boo!’? (And

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 11:1–13). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

don't get all offended, my dear ones. I AM picking on y'all, and MYSELF, a tiny bit. But don't worry! The police are NOT going to squeal into the parking lot and arrest us LUTHERANS for being too 'scary-religious!)

All sorts of good, heaven-sent, happy things wind up scaring me. When people who—as Luther noticed!—are so full of the Holy Spirit, they seem to have SWALLOWED HIM—FEATHERS and all!

Praying; church attending; witnessing our faith; giving holy gifts with holy hands; even just general living! I may be reading that one disciple too personally; pray for me. But I hear despair and anxiety and worry in that question: 'John taught his disciples to pray. Teach us to, also!'

Jesus' opponents had already, Saint Luke records, started to get the disciples of Jesus worried. Luke 5 and 33:

³³ And they said to him, "The disciples of John fast often and offer prayers, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours eat and drink."²

Was that 'one disciple,' who asked for prayer-religion, a target of this observation?! 'I'm not judging you and your disciples, Jesus. I'm just SAYING...'

Ahhh! But that OBSERVATION was a dodge! A distraction; from what Jesus had just been teaching. RIGHT before their observation of how sloppy Jesus and His Lutherans lived:

²⁷ After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, "Follow me."²⁸ And leaving everything, he rose and followed him.

²⁹ And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them. ³⁰ And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors

² [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 5:33). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

and sinners?” ³¹ And Jesus answered them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ³² I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.” ³

So, instead of CHAINING them up—that’s part of what the world ‘religion’ means: binding and firmly guiding...FIRM....LY.....

No binding; freeing! NOOOOOOOO....focus on Us’n and our pray-in!

‘FATHER!’ The IMPUDENCE! Yes.... Only way for the Lord. The Father does not get tucked into OUR religiosity and prayer. Our prayer, and all the rest, is gently tucked inside the Father. When our Brother, once a Baby like us, prays; and we too! ‘Follow ME!’ To His end; ours too.

⁴⁴ It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵ while the sun’s light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” And having said this he breathed his last.⁴

To His LAST BREATH, God-Maker-Power-Holy-Unseen....The Nightmare worry of all those who can still hear their conscience and be honest for a minute!.....To Jesus’ Last Breath, God is Father; and Father’s ears are open to That Man’s Breath!

At the worst place we could imagine ourselves, Jesus tucks Himself and that place and us under, with, in One Word: Father! Jesus was filled with Holy Spirit, without measure! His hands is where Jesus’ Spirit confesses He still is, no matter what!

So, my dear ones, you do not belong to despair! Not based on you, your behavior, your irreligiosity OR your impressive holy-acting. Nor that of the next man. He gives us the Word; the words: ‘Even WE pardon those who are indebted to US!’

³ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 5:27–32). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

⁴ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 23:44–46). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

The SHAMLESSNESS! WE are to SCHOOL God-Power-Father, in writing off debts we owe HIM, by OUR cancelling of debts owed US?! The IMPUDENCE! So says Old Adam; so say the lost; the scaredy-folk. Faith calls that petition, those words: Holy Spirit!

Jesus is King and Christ; He is the Lord—God in the Flesh with us. And He is most CERTAINLY our Savior!

Saving us from all the times we just don't have it in us to pray.

Relish and repeat and say those other words too. 'If y'all—WHO...ARE...EVIL—our Buddy Jesus calls us!—Y'all are EVIL, and yet can cluck and cluck about lousy parents who ruin the trust of children; CLAIMING to know how to parent, how to hear and answer the prayers of your children.'

But FATHER is not evil! He is Holy. Holy as no religious and praying superstar will ever understand. 'Follow me; bear your cross; learn from Me. HERE is what your Father delights to HEAR!'

³³ And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵ And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!"⁵

My dear ones: what would be the POINT of us stopping up praying for one moment! Even at the CROSS, the place of saving, the soldiers He prays for mock that prayer, His saving. Yet, He prayed for them; and prayed Father with His last breath. And

⁵ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 23:33–37). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

became Savior of all.

Heaven is NOT going to close its ears to you, my friends. Not even to me! Just because we are slow to forgive; just because we neglect prayer; just because our faith in our Father is so weak. Praying oughtta go on, because of the One Who taught that one disciple to pray, words to say, that day, but NOT as John did. WE pray with utter confidence; for we pray in the Name of Jesus! Amen!