

Catechetical Series III - The Lord's Supper and The Lord's Prayer

General Notes

- **Seasons for the series:** I recommend The Lord's Supper series be preached during the Epiphany Season and the Lord's Prayer series in September when catechetical instruction begins after the summer hiatus.
- **Lectionary:** At times multiple scripture readings have been included reflecting some of the variations made over the years.
- **Hymns and Catechetical readings:** The hymns selections and catechetical readings come from *Lutheran Service Book – LSB* (CPH, 2006). At times more than three hymns are offered as options, which reflect changes over the years. Readers preaching on the Catechism may find other hymns better suited to their congregational circumstance. Those using a hymnal that does not contain Luther's *Small Catechism* can print the catechetical readings in a bulletin insert.

Notes on the Lord's Supper Series

- **Lectionary:** The four passages that are the biblical basis for the Sacrament of the Altar are assigned as lectionary readings for this four-part series (Matthew 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-34). The Sacrament of the Altar is stated to be Christ's Last Will and Testament, reflecting the wording of the Verba in the *LSB* liturgies and in the text of *LSB's* Catechism. See also Luther's work "A Treatise on the New Testament, that Is, The Holy Mass" (LW 35, 75-111).
- **Hymns:** Two of Luther's hymns on the Sacrament of the Altar accompany the sermons on the Lord's Supper (*LSB* 617 and *LSB* 627), as well as his hymn on the Office of the Keys (*LSB* 607).
- **Catechetical readings:** The page numbers for the catechetical readings are also taken from *LSB*.
- **Sermon emphases:** These sermons should encourage Christians to be regular in receiving the Lord's Supper to be forgiven of their sins, to strengthen their faith in Christ, to be further equipped for their lives of service in the Church and the world, and to look forward to receiving their spiritual inheritance in heaven.

Notes on the Lord's Prayer Series

- **Lectionary:** I suggest that the biblical text of the particular petition be the basis for the preaching, using the text from the Sermon on the Mount in the Gospel of Matthew. Other Gospel readings have been included in the lectionary, reflecting variations over the years.
- **Hymns:** Luther's catechetical hymn on the Lord's Prayer (*LSB* 766) is sung in sections corresponding to the part of the Lord's Prayer that is the theme of the sermon.
- **Catechetical readings:** Each part of the Catechism on the Lord's Prayer should be confessed in the service – either before or after the sermon or elsewhere.
- **Sermon emphases:** Sermons on prayer should encourage regular daily prayer, family and personal prayer time, scripture reading, devotional time, a devotional use of the Catechism, the use of devotional tools like Portals of Prayer and other such aids.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

The Old Testament readings come primarily from Exodus 12 which teaches about the Passover, the Old Testament foreshadowing of the Sacrament of the Altar. The first Exodus reading (Exodus 12:1-15) notes that the Passover lamb to be slain must be without blemish and male, pointing forward to Christ the Passover Lamb of God without the spot or blemish of sin Who took away the sins of the world (John 1:29; 1 Corinthians 5:7). This first Exodus reading also speaks of the lamb's shed blood, the unleavened bread and the eating of the Passover lamb.

The second Exodus reading (Exodus 12:21-28) speaks about the deliverance of the Children of Israel because of the blood of the Passover lamb on the doorposts, foreshadowing our deliverance from sin and death by the blood of Christ (1 John 1:7), and the encouragement to teach the meaning of the Passover celebration. These things foreshadowed Christ charging His Church with teaching about the Lord's Supper and all of Christian doctrine (Matthew 28:16-20). The third Exodus reading (Exodus 12:43-50) notes that the Passover meal was a "closed" meal, as is Holy Communion today (1 Corinthians 11:27-33).

Psalms 116 is part of the Lord's Supper liturgy in *LSB Settings One & Two* (LSB, pp. 159-160 & 176) and speaks of the benefits given by God and of receiving the cup of salvation in the Lord's house. The Matthew passage specifically teaches that the Sacrament of the Altar gives the forgiveness of sins. Thus, it is the Gospel reading for the benefits of the Lord's Supper sermon. The Hebrews 9 passages teach that the death of the testator puts a will and testament into effect (11-18; also Galatians 3:15), and that without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins (19-22). The First Corinthians 11 passages emphasize the Verba as the real power of Holy Communion (23-26) and that there is need for education and self-examination before one can receive the Lord's Supper (27-34).

When preaching on the Sacraments of Baptism and the Sacrament of the Altar, some mention needs to be made about the thread of blood and water running through the Old and New Testaments. Blood and water were the agents of cleansing from sin, consecration, and purification in the Old Testament (Leviticus 1:4-5, 8-9; 8:6, 15, 23-24; 16:3, 14-16, 23-28; Deuteronomy 21:3-9). The New Testament recounts Christ's coming to His Church in blood and water (1 John 5:6-12). John in his Gospel emphasizes the truth that when Jesus' side was speared on Good Friday, blood and water flowed out of His side (John 19:31-37). Today Jesus comes to His Church and the world with the cleansing flow of blood (The Sacrament of the Altar) and water (The Sacrament of Holy Baptism), which delivers from sin and gives the blessing of eternal life (Matthew 26:26-29; Acts 2:36-39; 22:16). This blood and water thread can be included in the sermons or taught in a Bible class accompanying the sermons on Baptism and/or the Lord's Supper.

The Sacrament of the Altar Part I

- **Lectionary:** Exodus 12:1-15; Hebrews 9:11-18; Luke 22:14-20
- **Sermon title:** "What Is the Sacrament of the Altar? Christ's Last Will and Testament" Luke 22:14-20
- **Catechetical reading:** Read "What Is the Sacrament of the Altar?" & "Where Is this written?" *LSB* p. 326.
- **Suggested hymns**
 - 637 Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord
 - 617 O Lord, We Praise Thee (ML)
 - 643 Sent Forth by God's Blessing

The Sacrament of the Altar Part II

- **Lectionary:** Psalm 116:12-19; I Corinthians 10:14-22 **OR** Hebrews 9:19-22; Matthew 26:26-29
- **Sermon title:** "What Is the Benefit of Such Eating & Drinking?" Matthew 26:26-30
- **Catechetical reading:** Read "What Is the Benefit of Such Eating & Drinking?" *LSB* p. 327
- **Suggested hymns**
 - 627 Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior, vv. 1-5 (ML)
 - 627 Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior, vv. 6-10 (ML)
 - 620 Jesus Comes Today with Healing **OR**
 - 632 O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee

The Sacrament of the Altar Part III

- **Lectionary:** Exodus 12:21-28; I Corinthians 11:23-26; Mark 14:22-25
- **Sermon title:** "How Can Such Bodily Eating & Drinking Do Such Great Things?" Mark 14:22-25
- **Catechetical reading:** Read "How Can Bodily Eating & Drinking Do Such Great Things?" *LSB* p. 327
- **Suggested hymns**
 - 622 Lord Jesus Christ, You have Prepared, vv. 1-4
 - 622 Lord Jesus Christ, You have Prepared, vv. 5-8
 - 617 O Lord, We Praise Thee (ML)

The Sacrament of the Altar Part IV

- **Lectionary:** Exodus 12:43-50; I Corinthians 11:27-34; Matthew 5:21-26
- **Sermon title:** "Who Then Receives Such Sacrament Worthily?" I Corinthians 11:27-29
- **Catechetical reading:** Read "Who Then Receives Such Sacrament Worthily?" *LSB* p. 327.
- **Suggested hymns**
 - 607 From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee (ML)
 - 617 O Lord, We Praise Thee (ML) **OR**
 - 618 I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table
 - 621 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence **OR**
 - 628 Your Table I Approach

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer has seven petitions and an Introduction and Conclusion, so there are nine parts to this series. A sermon on prayer in general was not included, although one could be added, bringing the total in the series to ten. The Explanation section in the LCMS's edition of the *Small Catechism* includes a section on prayer in general [*Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation* (CPH 2006), pp. 174-180]. These readings or others more fitting with one's congregation could be used for a sermon on prayer in general: Genesis 18:23-32; Daniel 6:10; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18; Matthew 7:7-8; Matthew 26:36-44; Luke 6:12.

The sermon on the Introduction to the Lord's Prayer should reference the fact that earthly fathers should be viewed in the light of our perfect heavenly Father. There is also a connection to the First Commandment. The sermon on the First Petition should reference its connection with the Second Commandment.

The scripture readings for Second Petition ("Thy Kingdom come") reference the kingdoms of power, grace and glory. It should be noted that the kingdoms of grace and glory are the two parts of God's right-hand kingdom the Church – the Church militant on earth (grace) and the Church triumphant in heaven (glory). We do not pray for the coming of the Kingdom of Power for we are born into it and live our entire earthly lives therein.

God's good and gracious will is the salvation of all human beings by God's grace through faith in Christ. In preaching about the Fourth Petition, it can be noted that all of our earthly needs are summarized in the seven words of this petition. The Fifth Petition emphasizes the fact that we pray that God would forgive our sins so that, being empowered by that forgiveness, we would be moved to forgive those who sin against us, and to confess our sins to those we have sinned against. In the Sixth Petition we ask for God's help to fight against the unholy three – the devil, the sinful world, and our sinful human flesh.

The scripture readings and the sermon on the Seventh Petition emphasize God's deliverance from spiritual evil more than earthly evils. Both deliverances should be included in the sermon because God's eternal spiritual deliverance helps us deal with and to ultimately be delivered from the physical evils we will endure here on earth. The sermon on the Conclusion concentrates more on the word "Amen" rather than on the phrases about God's kingdom, power, and glory.

The Lord's Prayer: Introduction

- **Lectionary:** Isaiah 63:15-16; 2 Corinthians 6:11-18 **OR** Romans 8:15-17; Matthew 6:9, Matthew 6:31-32
- **Sermon title:** "Our Strong Heavenly Father: Introduction to the Lord's Prayer" Matthew 6:9
- **Catechetical reading:** Read "Introduction" & "What does this mean?" *LSB* p. 323.
- **Suggested hymns**
 - 649 Blessed Be the Tie That Binds
 - 766 Our Father, Who from Heaven Above, v. 1 (ML)
 - 865 Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain

The First Petition

- **Lectionary:** Exodus 20:7 **OR** Jeremiah 23:28-32; Romans 2:17-24; Matthew 6:9, Matthew 5:13-16
- **Sermon title:** "Keeping God's Name Holy: The First Petition of the Lord's Prayer" Matthew 6:9
- **Catechetical reading:** Read "First Petition," "What does this mean?" & "How is God's name kept holy?" *LSB* p. 323-324.
- **Suggested hymns**
 - 507 Holy, Holy, Holy **OR**
 - 863 Our Father, by Whose Name
 - 766 Our Father, Who from Heaven Above, v. 2 (ML)
 - 940 Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

The Second Petition

- **Lectionary:** Psalm 145:4-19; 2 Timothy 4:1-8, 17-18; Matthew 6:10, Luke 17:20-21 **OR** John 3:5
- **Sermon title:** "What Kingdoms Our God Possesses: The Second Petition of the Lord's Prayer" Matthew 6:10
- **Catechetical reading:** Read "Second Petition," "What does this mean?" & "How does God's Kingdom come?" *LSB* p. 324.
- **Suggested hymns**
 - 832 Jesus Shall Reign
 - 766 Our Father, Who from Heaven Above, v. 3 (ML)
 - 651 I Love Your Kingdom, Lord **OR**
 - 656 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

The Third Petition

- **Lectionary:** Psalm 40:7-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 **OR** 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Matthew 6:10, Mark 8:34-38
- **Sermon title:** "God's Good and Gracious Will: The Third Petition of the Lord's Prayer" Matthew 6:10
- **Catechetical reading:** Read "Third Petition," "What does this mean?" & "How is God's will done?" *LSB* p. 324.
- **Suggested hymns**
 - 571 God Loved the World So That He Gave
 - 766 Our Father, Who from Heaven Above, v. 4 (ML)
 - 832 Jesus Shall Reign **OR** 830 Spread the Reign of God the Lord

The Fourth Petition

- **Lectionary:** Psalm 37:16-29 **OR** Psalm 104:10-23; James 4:13-17 **OR** 1 Timothy 6:6-12; Matthew 6:11, Matthew 6:19-21, 25-34
- **Sermon title:** "Give Us Daily Bread: The Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer" Matthew 6:11
- **Catechetical reading:** Read "Fourth Petition," "What does this mean?" & "What is meant by daily bread?" *LSB* p. 324.
- **Suggested hymns**
 - 790 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
 - 766 Our Father, Who from Heaven Above, v. 5 (ML)
 - 817 Earth and all Stars **OR**
 - 781 We Give Thee But Thine Own **OR**
 - 783 Take My Life and Let It Be

The Fifth Petition

- **Lectionary:** Psalm 51:1-19 **OR** Psalm 32:1-11 **OR** Genesis 50:15-21; Acts 2:36-43 **OR** Ephesians 4:29-32; Matthew 6:12, 14-15, Luke 18:9-14 **OR** Matthew 18:15-35
- **Sermon title:** "The Forgiven Forgive: The Fifth Petition of the Lord's Prayer" Matthew 6:12
- **Catechetical reading:** Read "Fifth Petition" & "What does this mean?" *LSB* p. 324.
- **Suggested hymns**
 - 843 "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"
 - 766 Our Father, Who from Heaven Above, v. 6 (ML)
 - 706 Love in Christ Is Strong and Living **OR**
 - 788 Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness

The Sixth Petition

- **Lectionary:** Proverbs 1:10-19 **OR** Genesis 3:1-19; James 1:12-15 **OR** 1 Corinthians 10:12-13; Matthew 6:13, Matthew 4:1-11
- **Sermon title:** "Pray for Protection from the Tempter: The Sixth Petition of the Lord's Prayer" Matthew 6:13
- **Catechetical reading:** Read "Sixth Petition" & "What does this mean?" *LSB* p. 324.
- **Suggested hymns**
 - 656 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
 - 766 Our Father, Who from Heaven Above, v. 7 (ML)
 - 655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word **OR**
 - 718 Jesus, Lead Thou On **OR**
 - 709 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

The Seventh Petition

- **Lectionary:** Daniel 3:23-30 **OR** Daniel 6:11-28; Romans 3:21-30 **OR** 2 Thessalonians 3:1–5 **OR** 1 Peter 5:8-11; Matthew 6:13, Luke 18:9-14 **OR** Matthew 4:1-11 **OR** John 16:32-33
- **Sermon title:** "God's Saints Are Delivered from Evil by God's Justifying Grace" Matthew 6:13
- **Catechetical reading:** Read "Seventh Petition" & "What does this mean?" *LSB* p. 324-325.
- **Suggested hymns**
 - 656 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
 - 766 Our Father, Who from Heaven Above, v. 8 (ML)
 - 655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word **OR**
 - 528 Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing **OR**
 - 517 By All Your Saints in Warfare, vv. 1, 4, 3

The Conclusion

- **Lectionary:** 1 Chronicles 16:7, 34-36; 2 Corinthians 1:18-22; Matthew 6:13, Matthew 5:33-37
- **Sermon title:** "Amen - Make It So Lord! The Conclusion to the Lord's Prayer" Matthew 6:13
- **Catechetical reading:** Read "Conclusion" & "What does this mean?" *LSB* p. 325.
- **Suggested hymns**
 - 766 Our Father, Who from Heaven Above, vv. 1-5
 - 766 Our Father, Who from Heaven Above, vv. 6-8
 - 766 Our Father, Who from Heaven Above, v. 9 (ML)