

What does the Lord's Prayer mean?

Here are few pointers to start understanding this prayer that is so full of meaning.

When Jesus' followers asked Him, "Lord, teach us to pray," His answer was what we call the "Our Father" or the "Lord's Prayer." This prayer is a perfect model of how we should pray. St. Ciprian said, "This summary of God's teaching contains all of our prayers."

Our Father,

Even if we are alone, we are always praying together as God's family to our loving Father, God.

who art in heaven,

"Art" means "is." "God is in heaven" means that God is both with us and bigger than us.

"Heaven" is the good place where He is leading everyone who follows Him,

hallowed be thy name.

"Hallow" means "make holy," "holy" is what we call God's special things. "Thy" means "your."

"Holy be your name" means that we want God to be honored and respected more than anything.

Thy kingdom come,

We want to make every day into God's kingdom, filled with only love and good things.

Thy will be done

We want God to have his way, to get what He wants.

on earth as it is in heaven.

What God wants is everyone's good. He wants us to be loved, to love Him, and to love each other.

Give us this day our daily bread,

We ask God to give us everything we need today: both regular food and the Eucharist.

and forgive us our trespasses

"Trespasses" are sins, things done wrong on purpose. We ask God not to hold our sins against us.

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

In order to receive God's forgiveness for our sins, we have to forgive those who have hurt us.

And lead us not into temptation,

"Temptation" is the pull to do something wrong.

We ask God to help us do the right thing.

but deliver us from evil.

"Deliver" means "save." "Evil" is bad, wrong, sin, anything that moves us away from God.

