

Sunday, July 27th 2025

The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost



Mailing Address:

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489 Agnes
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WELCOME TO EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH!

“How lovely is Your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!”
(Psalm 84:1) We are thankful that God has brought you here with us this morning to hear His Word and receive His gifts! You’ll find everything you need for the worship service in this bulletin and in *Lutheran Service Book*, our hymnal. If you have any questions about our worship service, our congregation, or what we believe, please ask our pastor or any of our members.



OUR COMMUNION POLICY:

Our presence at the Lord’s Supper is to be a sign of our unity in Christ. Lutherans believe Scripture clearly teaches this sacrament is for those who trust that Jesus Christ is their Savior, are repentant for their sins, desire to lead a God pleasing life, and confess that, in, with, and under the bread and wine, Jesus Christ is truly physically present for the forgiveness of sins. And since 1 Corinthians warns that we can take the Sacrament to our condemnation if ill-prepared, we kindly ask any guests desiring to commune with us to speak with our pastor or one of our Elders before the service.

SERVANTS DURING WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

Pastor – Rev. E. B. Holschuh
Musician – Leann McClain
Lay Reader – Jeremy Clifton
Assisting Elder – Dave Sager
Usher – Jeremy Clifton
Acolyte – E.J. Clontz

AS WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

The Prayer of the Church Is the Voice of Faith

Jesus catechizes His disciples in the way of faith by teaching them how to pray. He promises us: “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you” (Luke 11:9). If earthly fathers know how to give good gifts to their children, “*how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him*” (Luke 11:13). Thus, father Abraham was bold in his prayer because he believed the gracious promise of the Lord, that he would “*surely become a great and mighty nation*” (Gen. 18:18). When we pray in Jesus’ name, we also hold “*fast to the Head*” (Col. 2:19), “*rooted and built up in him and established in the faith*” (Col. 2:6–7).

**DIVINE SERVICE
SETTING FOUR**

Prelude

Selected Music

Welcome and Greeting

Pastor

Announcements

Opening Hymn

“Father Most Holy”

LSB 504

(stand)

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared. *Ps. 130:3-4*

P Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

[Luke 18:13]

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

[John 20:19-23]

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Introit

Psalm 119:145-149

- P** With my whole heart I cry; answer me, O LORD!
I will keep your statutes.
- C** **I call to you; save me,
that I may observe your testimonies.**
- P** I rise before dawn and cry for help;
I hope in your words.
- C** **My eyes are awake before the watches of the night,
that I may meditate on your promise.**
- P** Hear my voice according to your steadfast love;
O LORD, according to your justice give me life.
- C** ***Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.***

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



- C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro-claimed at Je-sus' birth!
 O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
 For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
 You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
 Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
 In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O Lord, let Your merciful ears be attentive to the prayers of Your servants, and by Your Word and Spirit teach us how to pray that our petitions may be pleasing before You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

(sit)

²⁰Then the Lord said, “Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, ²¹I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know.”

²²So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the Lord. ²³Then Abraham drew near and said, “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?” ²⁶And the Lord said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”

²⁷Abraham answered and said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking. Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And he said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.” ²⁹Again he spoke to him and said, “Suppose forty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.” ³⁰Then he said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.” ³¹He said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.” ³²Then he said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.” ³³And the Lord went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

⁶Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and

authority. ¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹²having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(stand)

Alleluia and Verse



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

John 20:31



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the eleventh chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹Now 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.” ²And he said to them, “**When you pray, say:**

“Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

³Give us each day our daily bread,

⁴and forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

And lead us not into temptation.”

⁵And 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, ⁶for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; ⁷and 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?’ ⁸I 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. ⁹And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; ¹²or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³If 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!”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

(sit)

Hymn of the Day

“Hear Us, Father, When We Pray”

LSB 773

Sermon

“Lord, teach us to pray...”

Luke 11:1-13

(stand)

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and
the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

(sit)

Prayer of the Church

P Lord, in Your mercy
C hear our prayer.

Offering

Usher

(stand)

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Preface

P The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*
C **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.** *[Colossians 3:1*
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.** *[Psalm 136]*

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. By His death, He has redeemed us from bondage to sin and death, and by His resurrection, He has delivered us into new life in Him.

Grant us to keep the Feast in sincerity and truth, faithfully eating His body given into death and drinking His life's blood poured out for our salvation until we pass through death to the promised land of life eternal.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24
Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
- P** In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

John 20:19

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



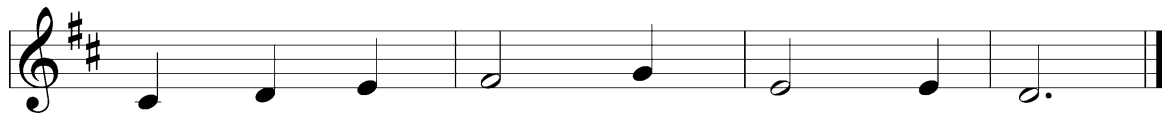
1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(sit)

Distribution Hymns

“Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray”
“We Know That Christ Is Raised”

LSB 623
LSB 603

(stand)

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All



part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the



glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;



A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is



to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -



peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus and Benediction

P Let us bless the Lord.

[Psalm 103:1]

C Thanks be to God.

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

C Amen.

(sit)

Closing Hymn

“Lord Jesus Christ, the Church’s Head”

LSB 647

P Go in Peace!

C Serve the Lord!

Postlude

Selected Music

Initial and ongoing funding for Epiphany Lutheran Church has been received through a grant made possible by the Roy D. and Ingaborg G. Randolph Memorial Endowment Fund.



CATECHISM CORNER | *Bite-sized teachings from Luther's Small Catechism*

Written in 1529 in Q&A format, the Small Catechism explores the Six Chief Parts of Christian Doctrine: the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, Confession, and the Sacrament of the Altar.

The Tenth Commandment: You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his cattle, nor anything that is his.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God, so that we do not tempt, force or coax away from our neighbor his wife or his workers, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

SERMON NOTES: Luke 11:1-13

“Lord, teach us to pray...”

1. God loves _____ who recognize and _____ their _____.
 2. Jesus knows that for every one of his _____, learning to _____ is key for the _____ ahead that awaits them.
 3. When we _____, we ask _____ to do what _____ promises to do, to provide us with what we need, not what we want or think we deserve.
 4. “For if you _____ others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also _____ you, but if you do not _____ others their trespasses, neither will your Father _____ your trespasses.”
 5. Fellowship with _____, the by-product of persistent _____, is greater than God’s _____ to any petition.
 6. Our God claims and calls us His own in _____, and gives us a lifeline to Him through the gift of prayer, and the _____, in particular.
-

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER?

The first step to becoming a member of our congregation is to speak with our pastor.

We believe, teach, and confess that we are all broken sinners in need of God's salvation, which He freely gives through His Word and Sacrament. Church is not a club for the sinless— it's a hospital for sinners!

You may become a member of Epiphany Lutheran Church by transferring your membership from a sister congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) or you may receive instruction from the pastor and become a communicant member of Epiphany and the LCMS through Adult Instruction Class or through a profession of faith.



Epiphany Lutheran Church has a podcast! Our ***Peace Be With You*** podcast is available on popular podcast apps, but you can always find it at peacebewithyou.podbean.com (or just scan the QR code).



Epiphany Events Calendar: Our congregation calendar is on our website (epiphanybastrop.org); to add an event, please email secretary@epiphanybastrop.org.

Offering: Should you wish to make your regular tithe or offering online, you may do so at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZKYH/home> or scan this QR code.



Adult Sunday School: Join us at 10am for Drive Thru History as we explore the lives of the very first Christians in ***Acts to Revelation***.

Epiphany Sisters of the Light Book Discussion: Ladies, join us in reading ***Fruitful Women of the Bible***. We will meet here at the SDA to talk about it at 6pm on Tuesday, July 29. Bring a salad to share, and we will discuss insights. For more info contact Carole (817-614-3916).

Upcoming Voters Meeting: We will be having a regular voters meeting on Sunday, August 3rd after the service. The meeting will include an update on our purchase of the property at 124 Three Oaks Lane.

Flash Zoom Study: Experience a glimpse back in time when a pre-flood tabloid news reporter interviews Noah about his unusual building project in the next one-hour, one-time **FLASH STUDY on Zoom** on Monday, August 11, at 6pm, ***The Noah Interview***. Join us for a 21-minute drama highlighting themes of apologetics, biblical authority, and the Gospel in an entertaining look at the Ark's construction, the Flood, and Noah's faith. Register now: bit.ly/ELC-Noah

New Thursday 6pm Zoom video study, *Help Is Here*, begins on Thursday, August 14. In this 5-session Max Lucado study we'll learn more about the "helper" we know as the Holy Spirit. Join us! Register: bit.ly/ELC-Help

New Epiphany Lutheran Church QR Code t-shirts: If you would like one or more (white, blue, or black, YS to 3XL—click [here](#) to see what they look like), please use the order forms in the entry area through next Sunday. The QR code goes to epiphanybastrop.info/at-a-glance, (same as the QR code on the Epiphany business cards free for the taking to give to folks as an easy way for them to find out more about us.

RightNow Media: Every person in our Epiphany family has (and can share) free access to over 25,000 biblical video series for adults, youth, and kids—**RightNow Media** has a free app that's available on all major streaming devices so you and your family can access content anywhere, anytime. Visit app.rightnowmedia.org/join/elcb or scan the QR code.



Lutheran Radio: Hear The Lutheran Hour each Sunday on station KBUK-FM 104.9 at 7:00 a.m. or on station KANJ-FM 91.5 at 12:30 p.m. or go to lhm.org for a link to listen to the Lutheran Hour live. You can also listen to The Lutheran Hour on the local Austin station KLBj (590 AM or 99.7 FM) at 7am on Sunday.

KFUO Radio, the broadcast voice of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on **KFUO.org** via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. Find programs on demand at kfuo.org and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: @KFUOradio on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

PRAYERS AT EPIPHANY

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please share any prayer request on the Prayer Requests sheet as you enter on Sunday. You may also email a prayer request, as well as a request to become a part of Epiphany's prayer chain, to secretary@epiphanybastrop.org.

Please continue to pray for...

- Rev. Sergio Maita and Yoxandris Marcano de Maita and their 3 children, Irene, Andrés, and Inés – missionaries in Puerto Rico
- Lauren Bowdren – Niece of Tom and Terri Rosser

The First Annual Epiphany Lutheran Church Spend the Year in Scripture Challenge reading schedule through next Sunday:

- Day 209 - Mon 7/28: Isaiah 1-4
- Day 210 - Tue 7/29: Isaiah 5-8
- Day 211 - Wed 7/30: Isaiah 9-12
- Day 212 - Thu 7/31: Isaiah 13-17
- Day 213 - Fri 8/1: Isaiah 18-22
- Day 214 - Sat 8/2: Isaiah 23-27
- Day 215 - Sun 8/3: Isaiah 28-30



THIS WEEK AT EPIPHANY:

Sunday, July 27th

- 10:00am – Children's Sunday School (Fellowship Area)
- 10:00am – Adult Sunday School (Sanctuary)
- 11:00am – Fellowship / Coffee Time
- 11:30am – Worship Service with Communion

Sunday, August 3rd

- 10:00am – Children's Sunday School (Fellowship Area)
- 10:00am – Adult Sunday School (Sanctuary)
- 11:00am – Fellowship / Coffee Time
- 11:30am – Worship Service with Communion
- Immediately following the service – Voters Meeting

Answers to Sermon Notes:
1. God loves *sinners* who recognize and *confess* their *sins*.
2. Jesus knows that for every one of his *disciples*, learning to *pray* is key for the *work* ahead that awaits them.
3. When we *pray* we ask *God* to do what *God* promises to do, to provide us with what we need, not what we want or think we deserve.
4. "For if you *forgive* others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also *forgive* you, but if you do not *forgive* others their trespasses, neither will your Father *forgive* your trespasses."
5. Fellowship with *God*, the by-product of persistent *prayer*, is greater than God's *answer* to any petition.
6. Our God claims and calls us His own in *Baptism*, and gives us a lifeline to Him through the gift of prayer, and the *Lord's Prayer*, in particular.



The Lutheran Version of the Lord's Prayer

The Lutheran version of the Lord's Prayer is rooted in the words of Jesus found in the New Testament, yet it has taken on a particular shape and rhythm through centuries of translation, catechesis, and liturgical use. To understand how the version familiar to Lutherans today came to be, we must trace its journey from Scripture through the life of the Church.

The prayer itself appears in two places in the New Testament: Matthew 6:9–13 and Luke 11:2–4. While both contain the essential elements of Jesus' model for prayer, the version in Matthew's Gospel is more complete and has long been the preferred text for teaching and liturgy. It contains seven distinct petitions, beginning with "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name," and ending with "deliver us from evil." Luke's version is shorter and appears in a different setting, but both serve as early expressions of Christian prayer life.

In the early Church, the Lord's Prayer quickly became central to both personal devotion and public worship. As early as the first century, Christians were instructed to pray it three times daily. It was also closely associated with the sacraments, especially Baptism and the Eucharist. By the time of the Latin-speaking Church, the prayer was firmly embedded in the liturgy, recited in Latin: *Pater noster, qui es in caelis, sanctificetur nomen tuum...* The familiar doxology—"For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever"—was not included in the biblical text itself but was added in liturgical use, likely drawing from early Jewish-Christian praise formulas.

The Reformation brought renewed focus on the clarity and accessibility of Scripture and worship. Martin Luther, in his German translation of the Bible and in his catechetical writings, rendered the Lord's Prayer in the vernacular so that all could understand and pray it. In both his *Small Catechism* and the *German Mass*, Luther included the full doxology, recognizing its longstanding liturgical use, even though it was absent from the earliest manuscripts of Matthew's Gospel. For Luther, the prayer was not only to be recited but understood. In the *Small Catechism*, he divided it into seven petitions and explained each with the guiding question: "What does this mean?" He emphasized that this was the Lord's own prayer, given to us so that we may pray as children speak with a loving father.

As Lutheran worship spread into English-speaking regions, the version of the Lord's Prayer used in worship and catechesis came to resemble the traditional English rendering found in the King James Bible and the earlier Book of Common Prayer. Thus, English-speaking Lutherans pray, "Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name..."—a form familiar across many Protestant traditions. Though shaped by English liturgical heritage, this version retained Luther's structure of seven petitions and the inclusion of the doxology, reflecting both historical continuity and theological intention.

Today, Lutheran congregations still recite this traditional form of the Lord's Prayer in worship. While modern Bible translations may be used in study settings, the rhythmic, reverent language of the older form continues to bind the Church together in common prayer. In both style and substance, the Lutheran version of the Lord's Prayer bears the mark of its biblical origins, its Reformation heritage, and its deep embedding in the life of the Church.