

Consider-ables w/Max Lucado

Your first step into the house of God was not to the kitchen but to the living room, where you were reminded of your adoption. *"Our Father who is in heaven."* You then studied the foundation of the house, where you pondered his permanence. *"Our Father who is in heaven."* Next you entered the observatory and marveled at his handiwork: *"Our Father who is in heaven."* In the chapel, you worshiped his holiness: *"Hallowed be thy name."* In the throne room, you touched the lowered scepter and prayed the greatest prayer, *"Thy kingdom come."* In the study, you submitted your desires to his and prayed, *"Thy will be done."* And all of heaven was silent as you placed your prayer in the furnace, saying, *"on earth as it is in heaven."*

Proper prayer follows such a path, revealing God to us before revealing our needs to God. (You might reread that one.) The purpose of prayer is not to change God, but to change us, and by the time we reach God's kitchen, we are changed people. Wasn't our heart warmed when we called him Father? Weren't our fears stilled when we contemplated his constancy? Weren't we amazed as we stared at the heavens?



Seeing his holiness caused us to confess our sin. Inviting his kingdom to come reminded us to stop building our own. Asking God for his will to be done placed our will in second place to his. And realizing that heaven pauses when we pray left us breathless in his presence.

By the time we step into the kitchen, we're renewed people! We've been comforted by our father, conformed by his nature, consumed by our creator, convicted by his character, constrained by his power, commissioned by our teacher, and compelled by his attention to our prayers.

The prayer's next three petitions encompass all the concerns of our life. "This daily bread" addresses the present. *"Forgive our sins"* addresses the past. *"Lead us not into temptation"* speaks to the future. (The wonder of God's wisdom: how he can reduce all our needs to three simple statements.)

First, he addresses our need for bread. The term means all of a person's physical needs. Martin Luther defined bread as *"Everything necessary for the preservation of this life, including food, a healthy body, house, home, wife and children."* This verse urges us to talk to God about the necessities of life. He may also give us the luxuries of life, but he certainly will grant the necessities.

Any fear that God wouldn't meet our needs was left in the observatory. Would he give the stars their glitter and not give us our food? Of course not. He has committed to care for us. We aren't wrestling crumbs out of a reluctant hand, but rather confessing the bounty of a generous hand. The essence of the prayer is really an affirmation of the Father's care. Our provision is his priority.

Responsive Reading: Based on Psalm 91

- G1: We dwell in the shelter of the Most High
G2: We rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
ALL: We say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom we trust."
- G1: We are saved from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence.
G2: We are covered with his feathers, and under his wings we find refuge;
ALL: His faithfulness is our shield and rampart.
- G1: We do not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day,
G2: We do not fear the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday.
ALL: He commands his angels concerning us to guard us in all our ways;
- G1: No harm will overtake us;
G2: No disaster will come near our tent.
G1: They will lift us up in their hands;
G2: We will not strike your foot against a stone.
ALL: We say, "The LORD is our refuge," we make the Most High our dwelling,

Lesson: Romans 8:22-23, 26-31

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Even we who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption. The Spirit helps us in our weakness.

We do not know for what we ought to pray, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son. . .and those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ...

Gospel . . . (cont'd)

The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

upcoming Events ... (Cont'd)

ADULT Confirmation Class



There are some adults in the congregation that have never been confirmed. and both Pr. Rob and the council have decided to offer an Adult Confirmation Class to any in the congregation that would (1) like to become confirmed or (2) like to have more information on Lutheranism, the Bible, and faith in general. If any of these options appeals to you, please see Pr. Rob!

upcoming Events



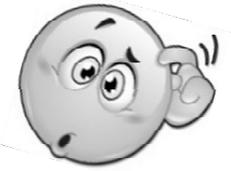
We will join Family Pathways in their March Food & Fund Drive & Minnesota Food Share March Campaign concurrent with our Lenten practices. Please consider contributing either dry/canned goods or financially.



Every Wednesday of Lent, we will gather at **6pm** for *soup and sandwiches*, followed by the Prayer and Learning Services at **7pm**. The topic this year will be on the development of and approach to the Bible. All are welcome to come to any or all the weeks for both supper and service or just one or the other. This all starts Ash Wednesday, 26 February with a service in which we will NOT be burning anything with which to make ashes.

GRIN-ABLE(S)...

- Q. What's the Easter Bunny's favorite restaurant?
A. IHOP!
- **Q: What is Easter Bunny's favorite kind of music?**
A: Hip-hop, of course!
- **Q: What the Easter Bunny's favorite dance move?**
A: The bunny hop.
- Q: What do you call an egg from outer space?
A: An "Egg-stra terrestrial"
- Q: What happened to the Easter bunny at school?
A: He was eggspelled
- Q: Where does the Easter bunny get his eggs?
A: From eggplant, of course!
- Q: What do you call a rabbit with fleas?
A: Bugs Bunny



Calendar...

- ✓ Soup n Sandwich – Wednesdays @ 6pm
- ✓ Ash Wednesday Service – Wednesdays @ 7pm
- ✓ Next council meeting – March 10th @ 6:30pm