

# The Art of Prayer



GOD'S FORGIVENESS

## MIDWEEK PRAYER SERVICE

March 13, 2024

### OPENING PRAYER

#### PSALM 103 *(read responsively)*

**L** Let all that I am praise the LORD;

**C** **with my whole heart, I will praise his holy name.**

**L** Let all that I am praise the LORD;

**C** **may I never forget the good things he does for me.**

**L** He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases.

**C** **He redeems me from death and crowns me with love and tender mercies.**

**L** He fills my life with good things.

**C** **My youth is renewed like the eagle's!**

**L** The LORD gives righteousness and justice to all who are treated unfairly.

**C** **He revealed his character to Moses and his deeds to the people of Israel.**

**L** The LORD is compassionate and merciful,

**C** **slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.**

**L** He will not constantly accuse us, nor remain angry forever.

**C** **He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve.**

L For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth.

**C He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west.**

L The LORD is like a father to his children, tender and compassionate to those who fear him.

**C For he knows how weak we are; he remembers we are only dust.**

L Our days on earth are like grass; like wildflowers, we bloom and die.

**C The wind blows, and we are gone—as though we had never been here.**

L But the love of the LORD remains forever with those who fear him.

**C His salvation extends to the children's children of those who are faithful to his covenant, of those who obey his commandments!**

L The LORD has made the heavens his throne; from there he rules over everything.

**C Praise the LORD, you angels, you mighty ones who carry out his plans, listening for each of his commands.**

L Yes, praise the LORD, you armies of angels who serve him and do his will!

**C Praise the LORD, everything he has created, everything in all his kingdom. Let all that I am praise the LORD.**

## A READING FROM LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM

**The Fifth Petition: And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us**

**What does this mean?**

We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

## SCRIPTURE AND DEVOTION – Cathy Hernandez

Ephesians 4:29-32 Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption.

Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

## PRAYER

**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;**

*(please pause for reflective and quiet prayer at this point)*

**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**

## HYMN

### Go, My Children, with My Blessing



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.  
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.  
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.  
4 "I the Lord will bless and keep you, and give you peace.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.  
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.  
I the Lord will smile up - on you, and give you peace.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.  
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.  
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here his ten - der com - fort stilled you.  
I the Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er and Broth - er.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."  
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."  
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."  
Go, my chil - dren, I will keep you, and give you peace."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh

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## BLESSING – Psalm 33:22

Let your unfailing love surround us, LORD, for our hope is in you alone.