

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth**  
**Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025**  
**Rev. Gerry Gallant**

**Who is your Father?**  
**Proper 7**  
**John 8:31-59**

**Welcome**

**Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

In your wisdom, O God, you call us here to worship you.

**We gather, alive to the Word of God.**

You call us to be fully alive with your life abundant,  
ready to listen and respond with heart, soul, strength, and mind.

**We listen, alive to the Word of God.**

You call us to be always watchful for your Word of wisdom,  
sometimes startling and unexpected,  
sometimes still and quiet,  
but always dwelling among us.

**We watch and wait for the Word of God.**

**Prayer of Adoration and Invocation**

We give thanks to you, God our Father,  
for mercy that reaches out,  
for patience that waits our returning,  
for your love that is ever ready  
to welcome sinners.

We praise you that in Jesus Christ  
you came to us with forgiveness,  
and that, by your Holy Spirit,  
you move us to repent  
and receive your love.

Though we are sinners,  
you are faithful and worthy of all praise.

O gracious and holy God,  
give us diligence to seek you,  
wisdom to perceive you,  
and patience to wait for you.

Grant us, O God,  
 a mind to meditate on you,  
 eyes to behold you,  
 ears to listen for your Word,  
 a heart to love you,  
 and a life to proclaim you,  
 through the power of the Spirit  
 of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Children's Video**

### **Call to Confession**

The proof of God's amazing love is this:  
 While we were sinners, Christ died for us.  
 Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness,  
 so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.  
 Trusting in God's faithfulness and compassion,  
 let us confess our sin before God and one another.

### **Prayer of Confession**

**Holy and merciful God,  
 in your presence we confess  
 our sinfulness, our shortcomings,  
 and our offenses against you.  
 You alone know how often we have sinned  
 in wandering from your ways,  
 in wasting your gifts,  
 in forgetting your love.  
 Have mercy on us, O Lord,  
 for we are ashamed and sorry  
 for all we have done to displease you.  
 Forgive our sins,  
 and help us to live in your light  
 and walk in your ways,  
 for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Our God pardons our sins and forgives our disobedience.  
 Our God does not stay angry forever.  
 Instead, our God delights to show mercy.  
 Our God again has compassion on us.  
 Our God tramples our sins underfoot  
 and hurls our iniquities into the depths of the sea.  
 Give thanks to our God, for our God is good!

### The Lord's 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors  
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one  
 For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
 Forever and ever. Amen.

### Hymn #300: "Glorify Thy Name"

Father, we love You  
 We worship and adore You  
 Glorify Thy Name in all the earth.  
 Glorify Thy Name,  
 Glorify Thy Name,  
 Glorify Thy Name in all the earth.

Jesus, we love You  
 We worship and adore You  
 Glorify Thy Name in all the earth.  
 Glorify Thy Name,  
 Glorify Thy Name,  
 Glorify Thy Name in all the earth.

Spirit, we love You  
 We worship and adore You  
 Glorify Thy Name in all the earth.  
 Glorify Thy Name,  
 Glorify Thy Name,  
 Glorify Thy Name in all the earth.

### Responsive Reading

#### Romans 6:1-11

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?

**2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?**

3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

**4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.**

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

**6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.**

7 For one who has died has been set free from sin.

**8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.**

9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

**10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.**

**Anthem (Music Ministry): “Great is The Lord”**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture**

**John 8:31-59**

<sup>31</sup> So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” <sup>33</sup> They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”

<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup> The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. <sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. <sup>37</sup> I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. <sup>38</sup> I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.”

**You Are of Your Father the Devil**

<sup>39</sup> They answered him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, <sup>40</sup> but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. <sup>41</sup> You are doing the works your father did.” They said to him, “We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God.”

<sup>42</sup> Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. <sup>43</sup> Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word.

<sup>44</sup> You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he

is a liar and the father of lies. <sup>45</sup> But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. <sup>46</sup> Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? <sup>47</sup> Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.”

**Before Abraham Was, I Am**

<sup>48</sup> The Jews answered him, “Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?” <sup>49</sup> Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. <sup>50</sup> Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. <sup>51</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.” <sup>52</sup> The Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, ‘If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.’” <sup>53</sup> Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?” <sup>54</sup> Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God.’” <sup>55</sup> But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. <sup>56</sup> Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” <sup>57</sup> So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” <sup>58</sup> Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” <sup>59</sup> So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

## **Sermon**

We start today in John Chapter 8 as Jesus is teaching in the temple just after the Festival of Booths. As we learned last week, he has just proclaimed himself to be the Light of the World.

To this crowd gathered around him, Jesus has claimed to be the Bread of Life, the Living Waters and the Light of the World. And now before him there appears to be some who believe. The Scripture we ended last week with said ‘many believed in him.’ And that is where we start today.

Today Jesus is speaking to those who have come to believe in him. People who have begun their walk with Jesus and he is going to tell them what is required to be a follower, to be a true disciple of Jesus Christ and as he does so you will see Jesus attacked for what he is teaching by those who oppose him.

The world has not changed. If you listen to what Jesus is telling you today, you will find yourself suffering in this world, as the people who oppose you ridicule you, mock you and persecute you for your adherence to the Word of God.

However, you will notice that through all that happens Jesus maintains a sense of calmness, of peace and of love. As Christians we too are expected to respond to the world around us with calmness, peace and love.

It is all set off by verse 31

**John 8:31**

**<sup>31</sup> So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”**

Jesus is telling those people gathered there that claim to believe that he is the Messiah, that it will take more than just saying that they believe to be one of his disciples.

The first step in faith is claiming to believe in Jesus Christ, the first step. To be a true believer in Jesus Christ requires you to walk a long road with him, a road that you will walk throughout your entire life.

Jesus is laying out an important criterion in being a Christian here in this verse, **‘If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples.’**

To be a Christian you need to abide in the Word of God. If you are going to claim to be a follower of Christ in this world you need to live your life in the Word of God. If your belief in God is genuine, it must move on from that time when you simply believe that Jesus is God, to a time when you live your life according to his Word, there needs to be evidence of spiritual growth.

How do you mature spiritually? How do you abide in God’s Word? How do you become a disciple of Jesus Christ and earn the right to call yourself a Christian?

You live in, dwell in and make your home in His Word.

You come to church; you come to Bible studies and most importantly you read your Bible. You read his words, from the beginning of Genesis to the end in Revelation. You read it and think about it; you use it to understand God and what he asks of you. His word must become the most influential part of your life.

The truth is that for many people who call themselves Christians the Word of God is more like a bird that flies over their head once a week on a Sunday morning for somewhere between five and thirty minutes depending on how long their Pastor speaks. It seems to almost pass in one ear and out the other, without having any real impact on their life.

Jesus says if you want to be his disciple you need to live in, dwell in, immerse yourself in His Word.

If you want to know why so many people who claim to be Christian do not act in Christian ways, it is because they are not immersed in the Word of God.

All throughout history and still today, when those who claim to be followers of Christ are ignorant of his Word, they live lives separated from his Word, the church becomes weak, and the work of God is enveloped by darkness.

As a disciple we are called to read the Bible, think about what it teaches, let it dwell in us, and it will do a powerful work in each of us. This is what all Christians are called to do, and it is every Pastor's fear that this is the only time each week that you read your Bible.

People of God you need to make the reading of the Bible and the thinking about the Bible part of your everyday life. Believing in God is the beginning of faith, but the true disciple of Christ abides in his word.

Christians are Christians because they know his Word, they trust in his Word and they live their lives according to his Word, even when it does not say the things that they want it to say.

This is the Word of God himself, Jesus is saying that if you want to be a Christian you need to abide in his Word.

This is one of the most important criterion that Christianity has, all throughout history horrible actions have taken place by people claiming to be Christians.

**'If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples.'** when the actions of people who claim Christianity are so far away from the Word of God, they are not Christians, they are not abiding in his Word.

The truth is that when you abide in the Word of God, **'and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'** When you are his disciple you will know the truth, notice this contradicts the world today which speaks of your truth, Jesus says that there is only one truth, the truth of God's Word. When you abide in Jesus, you will learn the objective truth, that one spiritual truth of this world, and the knowledge of that truth will set you free from your bondage to the sins of this world.

So how much of this abiding in God's Word do you need to do? How much of the Bible do you need to read each day, or for how long? Five minutes, ten minutes, fifteen minutes, an hour? Once a week, twice a week, every day?

There is no list of rules for how long you need to abide in God's Word! I am sure the Pharisees, Sadducees and Scribes would have loved to come up with rules, days, dates and times, but I will make it super simple. Whatever you are doing today, do more!

Do more! If you never read your Bible, start with a day a week, if you read it three days a week add a fourth. If you read it for 10 minutes, make it twenty. Just do more.

Read your Bible and do it as more than just an intellectual practice. Chew on the Word, ponder it, think on it, before you swallow it and make it part of your life. Know that as you faithfully abide in God's Word, the Word of God will change the way you live, he will be cleansing you, strengthening you, equipping you, showing you his justice, his grace and his mercy and his love as he does his spiritual works in you.

After this revelation, the religious leaders respond.

**John 8:33-36**

<sup>33</sup> **They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"**

<sup>34</sup> **Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup> The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. <sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.**

Jesus is not pulling his punches here. He has just said if you abide in my Word, you are free. Jesus gives them the offer of freedom in his Word, and they respond in anger. Their response is not to accept freedom but to claim they already had freedom because of their worldly things

This is what happens in the world still today, Jesus offers people freedom, and they tell him is ok Jesus, I am getting my freedom somewhere else.

The Jewish religious leaders make the claim that they have never been in bondage because they are the offspring of Abraham. Which historically speaking is a bit of a falsehood, the nation of Israel was in bondage more than a few times.

Look at how Jesus responds, '**Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.**'

When we study this verse in the Greek, that word sin is in a verb tense that indicates a continuous and habitual action. Jesus is not saying that if you occasionally fall prey to sin, if you sometimes give in to temptation that you are a slave to sin. He is saying if you repeat a sin over and over you are a slave to that sin, whether it is something as simple as lying about your golf score, or a hidden addiction, an immortal action that goes against the will of God.

Either way you are a slave to sin, and our society has embraced some of these sins. Even when the spirit speaks to the heart of sinners about their sin, society tells them it is fine.



That is the point Jesus was making to those listening. They were slaves to sin, remember these were religious leaders, they were not out carousing and drinking, they were not out gambling, they were not out committing sexual adultery.

So, what was the sin to which they were slaves?

They were slaves to their own pride, they kept trying to push Jesus away to oppose him, to deny him even though the Word of God spoke of him. They kept interpreting the Word of God in the way they wanted to so that they could maintain the lifestyle that they wanted here on earth.

This is probably the most common type of slavery to sin that exists in the world today. People refusing to abide in the Word of God because it offends some part of their life that they want to hold onto.

However, they are not stuck there. Jesus says, <sup>36</sup>**So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.'**

The Son of God can set us free. If you want true freedom from sin, you need Jesus Christ.

People of God. Sin makes slaves and the Son sets you free.

Being ignorant of your slavery to sin does not take away the truth you are a slave. Denying your slavery does not take it away. Another slave cannot set you free. Only someone who is not a slave can set you free.

And when you are a slave to sin, only Jesus Christ can set you free.

If you are a slave to sin in your life, if there is something in your life that you cannot stop doing, something that brings you shame or guilt, something that no one in your life knows about. God knows, and he can set you free. God can help you stop, once you recognize the truth that you are indeed a slave to that sin.

Sin makes slaves and the Son sets you free.

Jesus then continues.

**John 8:37-41a**

<sup>37</sup> **I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. <sup>38</sup> I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father."**

<sup>39</sup> **They answered him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, <sup>40</sup> but now you**

**seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. <sup>41</sup> You are doing the works your father did.”**

Jesus says I know you are genetically descended from Abraham, but you are not his descendants spiritually. God has an ongoing plan for his people, the genetic descendants of Abraham, Issac and Jacob. God has a plan for the nation of Israel.

He also has a plan for the spiritual descendants of Israel, and the greatest thing is that you can be a spiritual descendant of Abraham, Issac and Jacob, because of your faith. It is faith and the actions of the Holy Spirit in our lives that make us spiritual descendants of the nation of Israel.

Isn't it ironic that these religious leaders are pointing back to Abraham as their father, a man who embraced the Word of God in his life. Yet here they stand in front of God himself and deny his word.

So, Jesus speaks plainly, **‘You are doing the works your father did.’**

#### **John 8:41b-43**

**They said to him, “We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God.” <sup>42</sup> Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. <sup>43</sup> Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word**

They lash out at Jesus in anger again, they call him a bastard again. Jesus does not respond in anger, instead he once again state, if God were your father, you would love me.

If you abide in God's Word, you will love Jesus, he is the perfect representation of God the Father. Jesus's pain is that he knows the seriousness of their rejection of him, he understands just how much they are slaves to sin, and it hurts him deeply.

So, he says something very powerful in an attempt to open their sin caked eyes.

#### **John 8:44-47**

**<sup>44</sup> You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. <sup>45</sup> But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. <sup>46</sup> Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? <sup>47</sup> Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.”**

Jesus does not hold back. To those religious leaders he is saying I know you think you are righteous, I know you think you are good with God, I know you think you are going the right things, I know you are the religious leaders of the nation, and you have all the right credentials and training.

However, **‘You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires’**

Jesus tells them the truth about who is their spiritual parent when they are slaves to sin.

The devil is real, and he actively opposes God’s work and God’s people. He convinces people that their sin is not sin so that they become slaves to him and refuse to recognize the one truth that exists in God’s word.

Jesus says this to the religious leaders, you are of your father the devil. The good news of the Scripture is that they do not need to stay there, they can be adopted into the family of God if they just repent and turn away from their sinful ways.

Yet the truth is that many people will be like these religious leaders and still reject the truth because they refuse to see their status as slaves.

#### **John 8:48-50**

**<sup>48</sup> The Jews answered him, “Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?” <sup>49</sup> Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me.**

The religious leaders call Jesus a heretic and a demon possessed man. Jesus once again stays calm and tells them to look at the way that he honors God and God’s Word.

#### **John 8:51-53**

**<sup>51</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.”**

**<sup>52</sup> The Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, ‘If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.’ <sup>53</sup> Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?”**

Again, Jesus makes this claim to his deity. If you keep my word, you will not die. He makes the promise of eternal life, something that only God can do. Over and over in the book of John we see examples of Jesus claiming to be God, and this is yet another example. God alone grants life, and God alone can grant eternal life.

No other prophet, even the greatest of prophets never said if you keep my word, you will never see death. Jesus in saying this, made his word equivalent to God's Word, because he was God.

**John 8:54-59**

**<sup>54</sup> Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.' <sup>55</sup> But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. <sup>56</sup> Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." <sup>57</sup> So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" <sup>58</sup> Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." <sup>59</sup> So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.**

Jesus tells them that he is confident in his relationship with God. And he tells them Abraham rejoiced at seeing him.

This is perhaps one of the most interesting exchanges between the Jewish religious leaders and Jesus Christ.

They say you are not even fifty years old, yet you claim to have seen Abraham.

To which Jesus responds, **'Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.'**

The religious leaders were infuriated; they wanted to stone him to death immediately without a trial. Why?

Because Jesus had said, I was there when Abraham was alive. I knew him and he knew me, and he was glad to know me.

Then Jesus said that phrase, the one that was so simple yet held so much power, **'I am.'** In using this phrase Jesus was claiming to be the eternal God, using the same words that had been spoken to Abraham from the burning bush. Jesus was making a direct claim to be Yahweh, the covenant God of Israel, the One True Living God of all eternity, **'I AM'**.

This is why Jesus can set us free from our slavery to sin.

We need more than worldly wisdom and worldly ways to recognize our slavery. We need more than a 'how to book' we need God himself, and the book of John makes it abundantly clear that Jesus Christ is the only one who can do this. And because Jesus has made this perfectly clear to those gathered religious leaders, so they pick up stones to throw at him.

Yet somehow, he walked out of the temple unharmed.

This last lesson from Chapter 8 of the book of John is essential. Belief is the beginning of faith, but abiding is what it takes to be a disciple. It is only when we abide in God's Word that we are disciples. And it is only when we are disciples that we will begin to understand how sin makes slaves of people. That only God can set us free from being slaves to sin, that only by abiding in Jesus Christ can we be adopted into the family of God and begin to walk as the Salt and Light of his Word so that others too can be freed from their life of slavery to the devil and sin.

Let us pray,

**Watch Over All Your People**

Gracious God and Father,  
 watch over all your people,  
 those who struggle with doubts,  
 those who struggle with the labors of life,  
 those who sometimes struggle as they seek you.  
 Calm our hearts with your Word,  
 and with your dear Son's promise,  
 "I will give you rest."  
 Pour out your abundant blessings on us,  
 give us the assurance of your love in Jesus Christ.  
 Give us confidence as we face the challenges ahead.  
 Give us health of body and spirit,  
 and blessings in all things;  
 through your Son who gave himself for us  
 so that we could be his,  
 Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

*Source: Paul C. Stratman*

**Hymn #293: "Come, Thou Almighty King" (V 1,2,4)**

Come, Thou Almighty King,  
 help us Thy name to sing;  
 help us to praise:  
 Father, all glorious,  
 o'er all victorious,  
 come, and reign over us,  
 Ancient of Days.

Come, Thou Incarnate Word,  
 gird on Thy mighty sword,  
 our pray'r attend:

come, and Thy people bless,  
and give Thy Word success:  
Spirit of holiness,  
on us descend.

To Thee, great One in Three,  
eternal praises be  
hence, evermore.  
His sov'reign majesty  
may we in glory see,  
and to eternity  
love and adore!

### **Invitation to Offering**

### **Offering Prayer**

### **Closing Hymn #324: "Great is Thy Faithfulness"**

Great is thy faithfulness, O God, my Father;  
There is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
As thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness,  
Great is thy faithfulness,  
Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hast provided;  
Great is thy faithfulness,  
Lord unto me.

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine and ten thousand beside. [Refrain]

**Pastoral Prayer**

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Help us to really know you,  
to bless, worship, and praise you  
for all your works  
and for all that shines forth from them:  
your almighty power, wisdom, kindness,  
justice, mercy, and truth.  
Help us to direct all our living—  
what we think, say, and do—  
so that your name will never be blasphemed because of us  
but always honored and praised.

Your kingdom come.  
Rule us by your Word and Spirit in such a way  
that more and more we submit to you.  
Keep your church strong, and add to it.  
Destroy the devil's work;  
destroy every force that revolts against you  
and every conspiracy against your Word.  
Do this until your kingdom is so complete and perfect  
that in it you are all in all.

Your will be done on earth as in heaven.  
Help us and all people  
to reject our own wills  
and to obey your will without any back talk.  
Your will alone is good.  
Help us one and all to carry out the work we are called to,  
as willingly and faithfully as the angels in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.  
Do take care of all our physical needs  
so that we come to know  
that you are the only source of everything good,  
and that neither our work and worry  
nor your gifts  
can do us any good without your blessing.  
And so, help us to give up our trust in creatures  
and to put trust in you alone.

Forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
Because of Christ's blood,  
do not hold against us, poor sinners that we are,  
any of the sins we do  
or the evil that constantly clings to us.  
Forgive us, just as we are fully determined,  
as evidence of your grace in us,  
to forgive our neighbors.

And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one.  
By ourselves we are too weak  
to hold our own even for a moment.  
And our sworn enemies—  
the devil, the world, and our own flesh—  
never stop attacking us.  
And so, Lord,  
uphold us and make us strong  
with the strength of your Holy Spirit,  
so that we may not go down to defeat  
in this spiritual struggle,  
but may firmly resist our enemies  
until we finally win the complete victory.

For yours is the kingdom and the power  
and the glory forever.  
We have made all these requests of you  
because, as our all-powerful King,  
you not only want to,  
but are able to give us all that is good;  
and because your holy name,  
and not we ourselves,  
should receive all the praise, forever.  
It is even more sure that you listen to our prayer,  
than that we really desire what we pray for. **Amen.**

### **Benediction**

May the grace of Christ, which daily renews us,  
and the love of God, which enables us to love all,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, which unites us in one body,  
make us eager to obey the will of God until we meet again,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.