

Praying the Lord's Prayer in a Pandemic

An extended prayer in response to COVID-19

Written by Mathew Block

Our Father who art in heaven,

O God, You call us all to be Your children. Be a Father to us now in our distress.

Hallowed be Thy name.

O God, in Your name is mercy and salvation. Teach us to honour that name in all things, and to call upon it in every trouble.

Thy kingdom come.

O God, You rule heaven and earth. Bless the work of the Church, that Your kingdom would continue to be proclaimed even in this time of upheaval and disruption.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

O God, Your way in all things is perfect. Enliven us with Your Holy Spirit, that we would willingly walk in the way of your commands. Teach us to love You with heart, soul, and mind. Teach us to love our neighbours as ourselves, ministering to them in every need of body and spirit.

Give us this day our daily bread,

O God, provision for all our earthly needs comes as a gift from You. Remember those facing financial uncertainty and hardship in this crisis, and grant them every needful thing. Soften the hearts of Your people, that we would share freely with those who have less.

And forgive us our trespasses,

O God, You desire the death of no person, but instead seek the salvation of all. Draw all people to Yourself in this time of increased awareness of human mortality, that we would find in Your Son, Jesus Christ, forgiveness for our sins and the hope of eternal life.

As we forgive those who trespass against us,

O God, Your mercy is over all that You have made. Make us conduits of Your love and Your grace, showing to others the forgiveness and reconciliation You have first shown to us.

And lead us not into temptation,

O God, You do not shift like shadows, neither are You wearied by the changes and chances of this life. Be our soul's anchor in this trial. Befriend the lonely; comfort the sick; and console the dying. Defend us from the temptation to despair of Your love. You are our fortress; let us not be shaken.

But deliver us from evil.

O God, against You no foe can prevail. Spare Your people, O Lord, and bring an end to the disease which threatens. Guide those in authority, that they might diligently work to protect the nations. Equip physicians and healthcare workers with knowledge and resources to care for the afflicted. Our times are in Your hand, O Lord; rescue us from danger.

***For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.***