

The Ember Days were originally days of prayer, repentance, and fasting. Today the Ember Days can be a time to give special attention to the elements and fundamentals of Christian knowledge and life found in the catechism. Today we will be going through the Lord's Prayer

Reading

Genesis 6:9—7:5

L A reading from Genesis, the sixth chapter.

Noah and the Flood

⁹These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God. ¹⁰And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

¹¹Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹²And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. ¹³And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth. ¹⁴Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. ¹⁵This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark 300 cubits, its breadth 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits. ¹⁶Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above, and set the door of the ark in its side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks. ¹⁷For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die. ¹⁸But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁹And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female. ²⁰Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground, according to its kind, two of every sort shall come in to you to keep them alive. ²¹Also take with you every sort of food that is eaten, and store it up. It shall serve as food for you and for them." ²²Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

¹Then the LORD said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you are righteous before me in this generation. ²Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and his mate, and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and his mate, ³and seven pairs of the birds of the

heavens also, male and female, to keep their offspring alive on the face of all the earth. ⁴For in seven days I will send rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground.” ⁵And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him.

Reading

Psalm 77

In the Day of Trouble I Seek the Lord

- ¹I cry a- | loud to God,*
aloud to God, and he will | hear me.
- ²In the day of my trouble I | seek the Lord;*
in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying;
my soul refuses to be | comforted.
- ³When I remember | God, I moan;*
when I meditate, my | spirit faints.
- ⁴You hold my eyelids | open;*
I am so troubled that I | cannot speak.
- ⁵I consider the | days of old,*
the years | long ago.
- ⁶I said, “Let me remember my song in the night;
let me meditate | in my heart.”*
Then my spirit made a dil- | igent search:
- ⁷“Will the Lord spurn for- | ever,*
and never again be | favorable?
- ⁸Has his steadfast love for- | ever ceased?*
- Are his promises at an end | for all time?
- ⁹Has God forgotten to be | gracious?*
- Has he in anger shut up his com- | passion?”
- ¹⁰Then I said, “I will ap- | peal to this,*
to the years of the right hand of the | Most High.”
- ¹¹I will remember the deeds | of the LORD;*
yes, I will remember your won- | ders of old.
- ¹²I will ponder | all your work,*
and meditate on your | mighty deeds.
- ¹³Your way, O God, is | holy.*
What god is great | like our God?
- ¹⁴You are the God who works | wonders;*

- you have made known your might among the | peoples.
- ¹⁵You with your arm redeemed your | people,*
the children of Jacob and | Joseph.
- ¹⁶When the waters saw you, O God,
when the waters saw you, they | were afraid;*
indeed, the deep | trembled.
- ¹⁷The clouds poured out water;
the skies gave forth | thunder;*
your arrows flashed on | every side.
- ¹⁸The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind;
your lightnings lighted | up the world;*
the earth trem- | bled and shook.
- ¹⁹Your way was through the sea,
your path through the great | waters;*
yet your footprints | were unseen.
- ²⁰You led your people | like a flock*
by the hand of Moses and | Aaron.

Catechetical Instruction: The Lord's Prayer

The Introduction

Our Father who art in heaven.
Our Father in heaven.

What does this mean?

With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.

The First Petition

Hallowed be Thy name.
Hallowed be Your name.

What does this mean?

God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.

How is God's name kept holy?

God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!

The Second Petition

Thy kingdom come.

Your kingdom come.

What does this mean?

The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.

How does God's kingdom come?

God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.

The Third Petition

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

Your will be done on earth as in heaven.

What does this mean?

The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

How is God's will done?

God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.

The Fourth Petition

Give us this day our daily bread.

Give us today our daily bread.

What does this mean?

God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What is meant by daily bread?

Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

The Fifth Petition

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin 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.

The Sixth Petition

And lead us not into temptation.

Lead us not into temptation.

What does this mean?

God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead

us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

The Seventh Petition

But deliver us from evil.

But deliver us from evil.

What does this mean?

We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.

The Conclusion

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

What does this mean?

This means that I should be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven, and are heard by Him; for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us. Amen, amen means “yes, yes, it shall be so.”

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