

## Service for Week 21<sup>st</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> July 2025

By Chaplain Andy

### **Our Opening Prayer.**

Living God there are times when we want to pray to you but we can't find the right words, and there are times when we don't know what to pray for. We thank you then that we are not alone in prayer and that your response does not depend on our efforts. Loving God, hear our words now and, in your mercy, reach out in love.

**Amen**

### *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 trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass  
against us. And lead us not into  
temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory for ever and  
ever.

**Amen**

### *Bible Reading Luke 11:1-13*

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say: "'Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.'"

Then he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him.' "Then the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs.

"So, I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

*Holy words, Holy wisdom,*

***Thanks be to God.***

### **Reflection**

Speaking to people in the past they have told me that they sometimes feel they want to pray to God, especially when facing a difficult or uncertain situation, but find it difficult to start or



to know what to say. Our reading today from Luke's gospel is about the time that Jesus teaches his disciples how to pray and what to pray for.

Today there are articles and posts written about what has been called 'manifesting'. Manifesting is the idea that, through concentrated thinking about an ambition or goal in life and really believing it will happen, we can make it become a reality. This is usually about goals such as a new job or a promotion, having lots of money, or being able to travel to exotic places.

But prayer is something different from asking about getting a new job or becoming rich. Jesus in our reading gives his disciples, and us, a guide about what we should pray for, which we know as 'The Lord's Prayer'. It starts by praising God and confirming that we want to obey the commands of God as set out in the Old Testament 10 commandments and Jesus' sermon on the mount. Also to live our lives and to create the type of world as taught by Jesus and as comparable teachings from leaders of other faiths. We also request that we will be able to receive, not wealth, but sufficient to enable us to live.

We ask God for forgiveness for our wrongdoings, reminding ourselves of Jesus' teaching that we must forgive those who have done us wrong. Finally, we ask God to help us live a

good life and reject evil. We acknowledge that God is all powerful. God loves us and is with us in this life and the next- for eternity.

Jesus in our reading from Luke's gospel then tells a story about perseverance - not giving up. We should never give up praying to God even when we think he is not listening or not answering our prayers.

Our prayers are important - important to God but also important to ourselves because we are expressing into words or putting together in our minds our thoughts about our problems, our concerns. Without making extravagant requests we may also express our hopes and desires for our lives. And it is the process of putting together those words even if they are just in our minds and not written down which often is the start of God's beneficial answer and healing effect on us.

Prayer is a wonderful thing - it is a dialogue with God our creator-a God who loves us dearly and won't ever give up wanting, in Jesus' words, 'life in all its fulness' for each of us. **Amen**

### **Closing Prayer.**

Gracious God, I long for the day when your world will be as you want it to be; in which love and justice shall triumph. Give me the confidence that such a day will come and more than that, help me to make that happen through my life. **Amen.**

Prayers inspired by 'Prayerfully Yours'  
by Nick Fawcett