



## St. Andrew's Tidings

### For the Week of July 24

**Lord, teach us to pray**

**The Rev. Raymond Wishart, Deacon**

This week's Gospel reading starts with the disciples asking Jesus to teach them how to pray, just as John the Baptizer had taught his own disciples. Pretty simple request and Jesus was quick to teach them -- no lengthy parable or anything else, just simple instruction. The basic words he told them to repeat to God are the beginning of the Lord's Prayer that we say every week as part of our Holy Eucharist.

The version from Luke is a bit shorter than the version in Matthew, but has the same intent-

*He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, 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.  
And forgive us our sins,  
for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.  
And do not bring us to the time of trial.'*

*Luke 11:1-4*

It is a well-worded prayer, although surprisingly direct compared to most prayers we hear. After the briefest of salutation, the prayer moves to the human condition with what seems almost hasty. How direct, how un-genteel, how almost rude it seems! "Give us... . Forgive us... . Lead us... . Deliver us." Not only does the prayer rush from glorification to petition in a manner very different from the usual patterns of human behavior where favors are being sought; it shuns all indirect wording we typically see almost to the point of pushiness! Convention has

conditioned most of us to repeat this prayer so quietly and reverentially that we fail to recognize how we are risking an aggressiveness that really is not common for most of us. There is no “Please,” none of the softening, pious interjections that often mark what is called “spontaneous” prayer—“Oh dear Father,” “blessed Lord,” “sweet Jesus,” and so on—just “Give us, forgive us, lead us, deliver us”!

Maybe that is the point of the prayer, be simple and direct. Jesus words it differently but his point later in this Gospel reading is to ask directly, and that God answers all prayers. I do believe that God answers all prayers, but on God’s own timeline. Sometimes the answer is “Yes”, sometimes “No”, and sometimes the answer is simply “Later”. Just remember, that if you don’t ask, directly or otherwise, then the answer will always be no. Just ask, “Give us, forgive us, lead us, deliver us”!

There are several different translations of the Lord’s Prayer, but we tend to always use one of the two versions in our Book or Common Prayer. Those versions are familiar and comfortable to us, even if they are much more direct when you think about it than we may be used to. I would like to close with one of my favorite alternate versions, actually from the New Zealand version of the Book of Common Prayer-

*Eternal Spirit,*

*Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,*

*Source of all that is and that shall be,*

*Father and Mother of us all,*

*Loving God, in whom is heaven:*

*The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!*

*The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!*

*Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!*

*Your commonwealth of peace and freedom*

*sustain our hope and come on earth.*

*With the bread we need for today, feed us.*

*In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.*

*In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.*

*From trials too great to endure, spare us.*

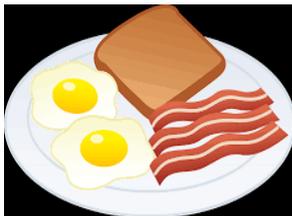
*From the grip of all that is evil, free us.*

*For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,*

*now and forever. Amen.*

It's a little more polite and friendly, isn't it? You might want to print it off and use it in your prayer times occasionally.

Peace+, Ray



**SUMMER BREAKFAST !!**

GRAB YOUR FRIENDS, REUNION GROUP, ETC. AND SIGN UP FOR SUMMER BREAKFAST WHICH GOES THROUGH AUGUST 28 !! Breakfast will be served from 8:30-9:30.



**BREAKFAST THIS SUNDAY WILL BE  
PREPARED BY**

**VICTORIA'S LAST BITE**

**The wonderful restaurant in Lynn Haven**

**You don't want to miss this!**

**\$3 individual/ \$7 per family**

**At 9 a.m. Panama City Fire Department  
Lieutenant Scott Filtcraft will present a  
program on their backpack program.**

## **Save the Date**



### Celebration of Life Potluck

*A sower went out to sow....Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a Hundredfold. Luke 8:5, 8a*

Sunday, **October 30<sup>th</sup>**, St. Andrew's Foundation is sponsoring a potluck in Byrne Hall immediately following the service. Start thinking now about that special dish you would like to prepare and share.

At the potluck there will be information and handouts about planning your final Celebration of life and opportunities to remember your church in your final plans. Our goal is to inform you of possibilities that you can discuss with your family to decide what your final wishes will be. A will can be a vehicle not only to distribute assets, but also to make a statement about a person's values and priorities.

We are working hard to make this event being informative, fun and yummy. Please plan to attend.

*(Names are left on the prayer list for 3 weeks, unless specified for a longer time)*

*Please keep the following in your prayers: Bob, Virginia, Mike, Warren, Ed, Nell, Sandra, Vincent, Margaret & Bill, Dr. Benton, Lindsey, Bill & Janice, Christian, Sandi, Reagan, Sean, Roy, Lori, Larry, Katie, Rick, Jarrod, Alex, Dustin, Christian, Bill, Janice, Carol, Scott, Kim, Tim, Elizabeth, Brad, Jason & Beverly, Cadence, Becky, Luke, Melinda, Bobbie, Emile, Leroy, Peggy, Norma, Cynthia, Daniel, Pat C., Kathy,*

*Russell, Teresa, Lori, Doris, Michael, Margaret, Judy, Elizabeth, Hannah, Robbie, Jessica, Betty, Mary Lou, Dawn*

*We pray for our men and women in the Armed Forces at home and abroad:  
Richard, David, Brian, Jason, Billy, Colin, Todd, Brett, Jordan, Jeremiah, Richard, Ivan, James*