

July 27, 2025



ABBA (FATHER)

By Julie Mussché

Today's Gospel

*Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he had 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
and forgive us our sins
for we ourselves forgive everyone in debt to us,
and do not subject us to the final test."*

*And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend to whom he goes at midnight and says,
'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread,
for a friend of mine has arrived at my house from a journey*

*and I have nothing to offer him,’
and he says in reply from within,
‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked
and my children and I are already in bed.
I cannot get up to give you anything.’
I tell you,
if he does not get up to give the visitor the loaves
because of their friendship,
he will get up to give him whatever he needs
because of his persistence.*

*“And I tell you, ask and you will receive;
seek and you will find;
knock and the door will be opened to you.
For everyone who asks, receives;
and the one who seeks, finds;
and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.
What father among you would hand his son a snake
when he asks for a fish?
Or hand him a scorpion when he asks for an egg?
If you then, who are wicked,
know how to give good gifts to your children,
how much more will the Father in heaven
give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?”*

LUKE 11:1-13

Reflection

Today’s reading from Luke offers a somewhat condensed version of the Lord’s Prayer. Whether the longer rendering in Matthew or this one from Luke, we are affirmed as members of God’s family: God as Father, not ruler, king or boss. A request for daily bread, forgiveness of sins and a promise to forgive the debt of others -- all seems inscribed as covenant. We say, “Your kingdom come,” a deep and embracing longing. As today’s scripture continues, we learn that God, like a good father, will be there -- and that God promises the gift of the Holy Spirit if only we ask.

Quite a bit is packed into today’s text. The one question that always percolates for me: what does it mean to be a family member in God’s kingdom? A bit of context that I am always invited to consider: both first century Jewish and Christian traditions emerged from a foundational belief in a messiah who would restore peace and justice as well as Israel’s kingdom of God. For a

people subjected to war, oppression, tyranny and exploitation, the collective desire for salvation is clear. Yet, this aspiration extends beyond time and space and certainly is applicable in the here and now.

What does it mean to be a partner in helping to build or even sustain God's kingdom? Scripture implies that we are a part of helping to "prepare the way" by actively supporting God's efforts to heal and repair the tangible and spiritual world. In the call to discipleship, we put on the face of Christ to others as loving, kind, merciful, compassionate and unifying people. As a kingdom builder, how are you called to partnership with God?



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For Pondering and Prayer

Spend a prayer moment with Luke's version of the Lord's Prayer if you have some time today.

Does any word or phrase capture your attention? If so, incorporate the word or phrase to help center yourself.

Once you have had some time dancing with your sacred text, spend a quiet moment resting in God.

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