



19 Minutes with Luther

The Address

- The Knowledge of God
- Law and Gospel
- Introduction to the Law
- 1st Commandment
- 2nd Commandment
- 3rd Commandment
- 4th Commandment
- 5th Commandment
- 6th Commandment
- 7th Commandment
- 8th Commandment
- 9th & 10th Commandments
- The Conclusion
- The Gospel & the Nature of God
- The Apostles' Creed (Faith)
- 1st Article (Creation)
- 1st Article (Preservation)
- 1st Article (Protection)
- 1st Article (The Fall into Sin)
- 2nd Article (Christ's Person)
- 2nd Article (Christ's Office)
- 2nd Article (Christ's Work)
- 2nd Article (Christ's Humiliation)
- 2nd Article (Christ's Exaltation)
- 2nd Article (Christian Life)
- 2nd Article (Saved by Faith)
- 3rd Article (The Holy Spirit)
- 3rd Article (Calls)
- 3rd Article (Enlightens)
- 3rd Article (Sanctifies)
- 3rd Article (Keeps in Faith)
- 3rd Article (Invisible Church)
- 3rd Article (Visible Church)
- 3rd Article (Forgiveness)
- 3rd Article (Eternal Life)
- Baptism (Part 1)
- Baptism (Part 2)
- Holy Communion (Part 1)
- Holy Communion (Part 2)
- Keys & Confession (Part 1)
- Keys & Confession (Part 2)
- Keys & Confession (Part 3)
- Introduction to the Lord's Prayer
- **The Address**
- 1st Petition
- 2nd Petition
- 3rd Petition
- 4th Petition
- 5th Petition
- 6th Petition
- 7th Petition
- The Doxology

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 we may pray to him as boldly and confidently as dear children ask their dear father.

1. With the words of the Address, Jesus sets the mood for the Lord's Prayer by reminding us of our relationship with God. What do the following passages tell us about our relationship with God and how this relationship came about?

"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!" (1 John 3:1).

"When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons" (Galatians 4:4,5).

"You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:26).

2. What assurance do we have in prayer from knowing that God is our Father? What other assurances do we gain from this fact?
3. Evaluate: In no other religion on earth is there such a warm relationship between the God worshiped and the worshiper as there is in the Christian religion.
4. Many people in our society have a poor concept of fatherhood. How would you use Scripture's message about our Father in heaven to teach someone about fatherhood? How would you use this message to comfort someone who has never known the love of an earthly father?

5. The words *in heaven* remind us that God is almighty. What added assurance does this give you as you pray?

6. Saint James wrote: *“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord”* (1:5-7). What things cause us to lack confidence when we pray? How does this hinder our prayer life?

7. Use an **X** on the scale below to rate the boldness and confidence with which you pray (1 being weak; 10 being strong). Use a circle to indicate the frequency with which you pray (1 being infrequently; 10 being often). What will God use to improve both of these aspects of your prayer life?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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Luther said:

“God in his Word testifies that our prayers heartily please him and will definitely be heard and granted. This he does so that we may not disdain his promise or cast it to the wind or pray in uncertainty.” (Tappert, p. 423.)

Closing Prayer

Dear Father, by the sacrifice of your Son, Jesus, you have reconciled all people to yourself. By the working of your Spirit, you have called us to faith and have made us your children. We rejoice over this relationship. We thank you for your continual presence. We praise you for your tender care and for the privilege of praying to you as boldly and as confidently as any dear children come to their dear fathers. Amen.

At home

Memorize the Address and its meaning.

Helps

(1) Through an act of his undeserved love, God sent his Son into the world to reconcile lost mankind to himself. All people have been redeemed through Jesus' innocent life and sacrificial death. Through Spirit-given faith, we have received the blessings Christ won for us and have become the sons and daughters of God. (2) Because God is our Father, we can go to him boldly and confidently in prayer, knowing that he will hear, listen to, and answer our prayers. This relationship with God also assures us that he will bless us eternally, that he will be with us always, that he will guard and protect us, and that all things will work together for our good. (3) The rest of the religions of the world are based on work-righteousness. The relationship between the worshiper and the god worshiped, therefore, is one of fear and uncertainty. (4) God is the ideal and perfect Father: loving, caring, dependable, faithful, compassionate, and merciful. Even those who have not known such a father in this life can be assured that they have such a Father in heaven. (5) We can pray confidently to God, knowing that he has the power to do what we ask, according to his will. (6) A lack of faith and trust in God's promises may lead us to pray without confidence and may keep us from praying as frequently as we should. (7) Prayer is a fruit of faith. God speaking to us in love leads to our speaking to him. As God the Holy Spirit strengthens our faith through Word and sacrament, we will pray with increased confidence and frequency.