



# On the Privilege and Purpose of Prayer

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 27, 2025



*"Winning souls for Christ. Coaching Christians for life."*

4651 Kernan Blvd S, Jacksonville, FL 32224 • (904) 642-8900

# A Place to Call Home: Victory Lutheran

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, welcome home. We especially welcome to our house of worship our guests who have joined us today. We pray you will be strengthened by the good news about God's grace, love, and forgiveness to us through Jesus. We say with the Psalmist, whether here on campus or viewing online, "I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD'" (Psalm 122:1). May the Lord continue to help us grow in His grace and knowledge as we hear, speak, and sing His holy Word.

**Please sign the Connection Card** inside the worship folder and return it in the basket on the worship table. Members, please update your contact info if there is a change.

**Restrooms** are located in the hallway to the left as you exit the sanctuary. Changing tables are available in both restrooms.

A **Quiet Room** for children who need a moment to get settled with a parent or guardian is located on the right before entering the sanctuary.

Visit our website: [www.victorylutheran.org](http://www.victorylutheran.org) or find us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube!



## Worship Series Focus: **UNDIVIDED ATTENTION**

We live in a world where a thousand things are competing for our attention. There is the real danger that we focus on the frivolous and ignore the indispensable. As a result, we often talk about the importance of being "free from distraction." But the stakes are higher than that. We need to be freed from distraction. We need the spiritual power to give our undivided attention to that which truly makes a difference, not only here and now, but also in eternity. A life focused on all the right things is only possible because of a Savior who is always focused on us. On the Day of Pentecost, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to give his followers power and focus. Still today, through his Word, Jesus grants those gifts to his disciples.

We have come to the second half of the Church Year. In the first half, we focused on the life of Christ. In this second half, we turn our attention to all the teachings of Christ. May we give them our undivided attention.

## Today's Worship: On the Privilege and Purpose of Prayer

In a sense, prayer comes naturally to us. We want so we ask. We hurt so we cry out. We are frustrated so we vent. We are blessed so we give thanks. Natural! What does not come naturally, however, is a proper understanding of the privilege of prayer. Prayer is a privilege, based entirely on the unique and unearned relationship we have with God, our Father. And the purpose of prayer is really not to tell God what we want, but to claim that which God wants for us. Prayer provides the opportunity to bring our will into conformity with God's will, not the other way around. This week, we give our undivided attention to what God says about this access we call prayer. Along with Jesus' disciples we say, "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1).

*Service of Morning Praise*

## Our Path for Worship

Minister: God, our Father, each day is a gift of your grace

**Congregation: Your mercies are new every morning.**

Guide our steps by the light of your Word.

**Shield us from harm and keep us from evil.**

Better than life is your love.

**Put joy in our hearts and praise on our lips. Alleluia!**

Praise be to God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit:

**Let us worship Him.**

## Hymn Sing Sunday

*Pick your favorite hymn out of the blue hymnal and raise your hand. If Pastor Kolander picks you, we'll sing it!*

...this I call to mind

**and therefore, I have hope:**



Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.  
**They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.**

I say to myself,  
**"The LORD is my portion therefore I will wait for him."**

The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him... Though he brings grief, he will show compassion,  
**so great is his unfailing love.**

For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to the children of men  
**Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the LORD.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**All: Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.  
**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

Let us give glory to God, our light and our life.  
**Let us worship Him.**



# Come, Oh, Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord

Venite

After a short introduction, the **Congregation** sings:



Come, oh, come, let us sing to the Lord,  
let us shout with joy to our sav - ing Rock;  
come, en - ter in with our songs of praise,  
*Repeat for use with canon*  
come, en - ter in with thanks - giv - ing.

## Verses



1. You are a great and a won - drous God,  
2. Come, let us wor - ship and, bow - ing low,  
cup - ping in your hands all the depths of earth.  
kneel be - fore the One who has made us all.  
You made the hills and the moun - tains high,  
You are the God whom we call our own,  
*to Refrain*  
you made the seas and the dry land.  
we are the flock that you shep - herd.

## Prayer of the Day

Rejoicing in the forgiveness of our sins, let us pray: O Lord, your ears are always open to the prayers of your humble servants who come to you in Jesus' name. Teach us always to ask according to your will that we may never fail to obtain the blessings you have promised;

**through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## First Reading

*Genesis 18:20–32*

***Abraham boldly prays based on what he knows about the LORD's justice and mercy***

<sup>20</sup>Then the LORD said, "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous <sup>21</sup>that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know."

<sup>22</sup>The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the LORD. <sup>23</sup>Then Abraham approached him and said: "Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? <sup>24</sup>What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? <sup>25</sup>Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

<sup>26</sup>The LORD said, "If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake."

<sup>27</sup>Then Abraham spoke up again: "Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes, <sup>28</sup>what if the number of the righteous is five less than fifty? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five people?"

"If I find forty-five there," he said, "I will not destroy it."

<sup>29</sup>Once again he spoke to him, "What if only forty are found there?"

He said, "For the sake of forty, I will not do it."

<sup>30</sup>Then he said, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak. What if only thirty can be found there?"

He answered, "I will not do it if I find thirty there."

<sup>31</sup>Abraham said, "Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, what if only twenty can be found there?"

He said, "For the sake of twenty, I will not destroy it."

<sup>32</sup>Then he said, “May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found there?”

He answered, “For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn

**CW722 vs. 1–2** | *In Holy Conversation*

## Second Reading

*1 Timothy 2:1–7*

***Paul teaches us that the ultimate purpose for everything we ask is that God's will would be done***

<sup>1</sup>I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— <sup>2</sup>for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. <sup>3</sup>This is good, and pleases God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup>For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time. <sup>7</sup>And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a true and faithful teacher of the Gentiles.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn

**CW722 v. 3** | *In Holy Conversation*

## Gospel Reading

*Luke 11:1–13*

***Jesus teaches us how to pray and how our Father will answer***

<sup>1</sup>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.”

<sup>2</sup>He said to them, “When you pray, say:

“Father,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come.

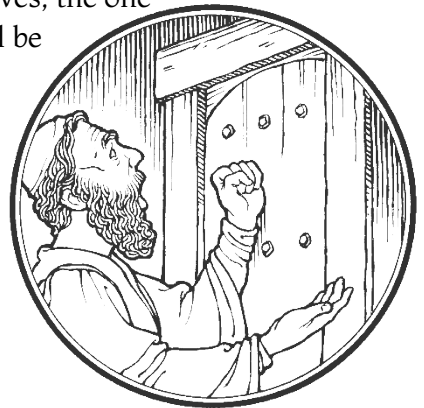
<sup>3</sup>Give us each day our daily bread.

<sup>4</sup>Forgive us our sins,  
for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.  
And lead us not into temptation.”

<sup>5</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; <sup>6</sup>a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.’ <sup>7</sup>And suppose the one inside answers, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.’ <sup>8</sup>I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.

<sup>9</sup>“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. <sup>10</sup>For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

<sup>11</sup>“Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? <sup>12</sup>Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? <sup>13</sup>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!”



The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## Children's Message

*All children are invited to join Pastor at the front of the sanctuary for a message based on today's sermon, specifically designed for them! If children would feel more comfortable, an adult is welcome to come up with them.*

10:30 Service

## Children's Church

Children ages 3–5 can be dismissed to the kitchen classroom for Children's Church. Children will return from Children's Church to the sanctuary after the conclusion of the sermon.



## Hymn of the Day

**CW719** | Lord, Teach Us How to Pray

## Sermon

Pastor Jonathan Kolander

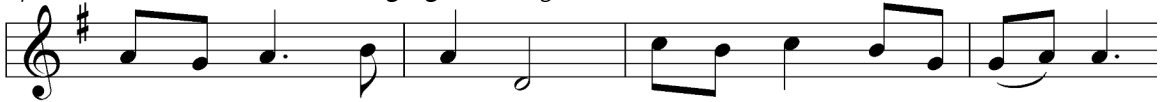
### “Use and Not Abuse Prayer”

Luke 11:1–13

## You Are God; We Praise You

*Te Deum*

After a short introduction, the **Congregation** sings:



You are God; we praise you. You are Lord; we ac - claim you.



To you, O Fa-ther ho - ly, all cre - a-tion of - fers praise.



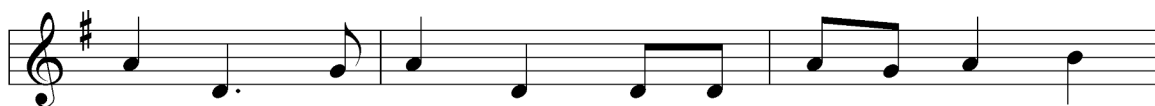
1. With the an - gels in heav - en,
2. Cre - a - tor of all things, We praise you, we
3. O Christ, King of glo - ry,



praise you! With the cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim, We  
O Je - sus Christ, the Son of God,  
You be - came a man to set us free;



praise you, we praise you! With a - pos - tles and proph - ets, We  
O Spir - it, most ho - ly,  
You have ris - en to free us;



praise you, we praise you! With the mar - tyrs and your  
To the Trin - i - ty most  
And with all your saints in

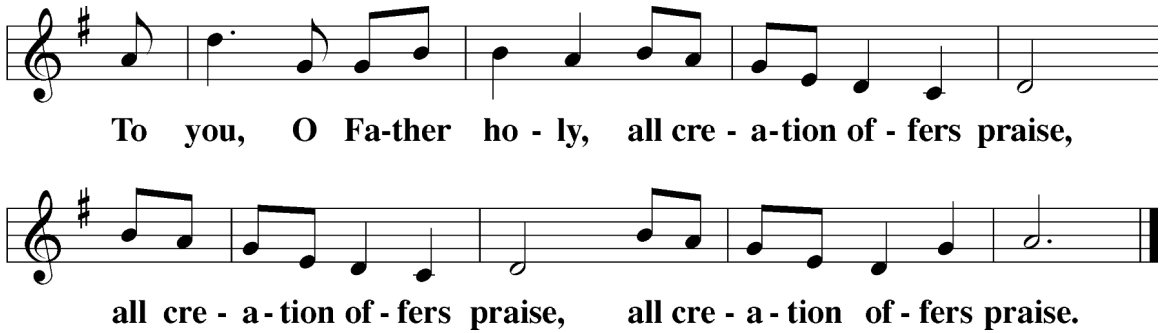


ho - ly Church,  
bless - ed, We sing in end - less praise! *to Refrain*  
glo - ry, *to Refrain*  
*to Final Refrain*

### *Final Refrain*



You are God; we praise you. You are Lord; we ac - claim you.



## Thank Offering

**Guests:** This is the moment in our worship when members and friends of Victory Lutheran respond to God's good news with gifts to support his saving work in Jacksonville, St. Johns County, and beyond. If you are our guest today, you are welcome to participate in this offering, but don't feel forced to! You can also give an online thank offering by using the camera on your smartphone to scan the QR code.



Please also fill out the Connection Card found inside your worship folder and drop it in the basket on the back (blue) table. You can also scan the QR code on the left to fill out an online Connection Card.

## Lord, Have Mercy

*Kyrie*

In the morning, O Lord, I call to you; be merciful to me and hear my prayer.

**Lord, have mercy.**

## Prayer of the Church

Grant us, O Lord, to live each day in gladness and peace, without stumbling and without stain, that reaching the evenings victorious over all temptation, we may praise you, the eternal God, for you govern all things and are praised now and forever. Make us instruments of your peace: where there is hatred,  
**let us sow love;**

where there is injury, **pardon**;  
where there is doubt, **faith**;  
where there is despair, **hope**;  
where there is darkness, **light**;  
where there is sadness, **joy**.

O Lord, grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love;  
**for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.**

Dwell in our homes, O Lord, and let the trust of our families be centered in you alone, so that no difficulty, trial, or adversity rob us of the conviction that you are our helper in every time of need. Relieve the afflictions of the weary and the sick and dry the tears of the troubled and sorrowful. Lead them to look to you as the unfailing spring of healing and hope.

**Help us believe and trust in him, love and serve him, that in all our thoughts, words, and actions we may manifest his spirit. Rebuke our selfishness and subdue our self-indulgence. Deepen our sympathies, strengthen our hope, and confirm us in our faith.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow*

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer*

All these things we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **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 and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Let us praise the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Blessing

The Lord bless and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

**Amen.**

## Closing Hymn

**CW721** | *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*



## Serving in Worship

***Pastor***

***Accompanist***

*Rev. Jonathan Kolander*

*Mrs. Anne Grotefend*

## Acknowledgments

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### **For reflection based on today's Scripture readings...**

- 1<sup>st</sup>: The situation may seem impossible, it may seem like God has His mind made up, yet what does Abraham teach us here? Read Matthew 26:36–46.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Who do you find it difficult to pray on behalf of, and why do you think this is? Reflect on who God wants us to pray for, and why He wants this. How does Paul make the point this is not optional? Read Philippians 4:4–9.

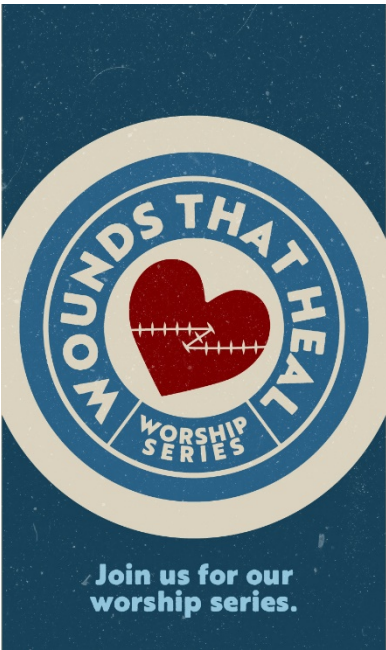
3<sup>rd</sup>: When / How would a prayer not be acceptable to God? How would you describe the person Jesus uses as an example? If we know how to give good gifts, what does God our heavenly Father know what to do? Read 1 Peter 3:8–12.

## Upcoming Service Themes



Aug. 3	On Useful Resources
Aug. 10	On Heavenly Treasure

*New Worship Series:*  
**Wounds that Heal**



Aug. 17	God's Word Divides
Aug. 24	The Door Is Very Narrow
Aug. 31	Those Who Exalt Themselves Will Be Humbled
Sept. 7	Count the Cost
Sept. 14	The Found are Left; the Lost are Found
Sept. 21	No One Can Serve Two Masters
Sept. 28	What Helps in Life Fails in Death
Oct. 5	Increased Faith Increases Duty



## MY WORSHIP NOTES



*For children to use during worship.*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

What is the name of the church season or special day today? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the color of the church today? Circle one:

Blue   White   Purple   Red   Green

The Sermon Text Was: \_\_\_\_\_

This is in the:   ☐ Old Testament   ☐ New Testament



What was the sermon about? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



My favorite song today was:



Did we have a Sacrament today?



Baptism?

☐ Yes  
☐ No



Communion?

☐ Yes  
☐ No

Draw a picture of something you heard or saw today:

What did you learn about God today?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## **Sunday Service Times**

8:00am Worship

9:15am Bible Class and Sunday School

10:30am Worship with Livestream

## **Contact Information**

Brad Smith, Office Manager — (904) 642-8900  
[office@victorylutheran.org](mailto:office@victorylutheran.org)

Jonathan Kolander, Pastor — (414) 510-0971  
[pastork@victorylutheran.org](mailto:pastork@victorylutheran.org)

Katie Seelman Preschool Director — (904) 955-1926  
[director@victorylutheran.org](mailto:director@victorylutheran.org)

Jarrett Mielke, Staff Minister — (941) 735-6962  
[jmielke@victorylutheran.org](mailto:jmielke@victorylutheran.org)

Victory is a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), headquartered in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

