

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE FOURTH PETITION

DEVOTION

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD.

What does this mean? God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What is meant by daily bread? Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food in due season. You open Your hand; You satisfy the desire of every living thing. (Psalm 145:15–16)

FOR SHARING

1. Daily bread is everything we need for a healthy, stable life. What specific blessings in Luther's list do you most appreciate in your life? What additional blessings might you include?
2. Though God promised to provide daily manna for His people in the desert, they gathered more than a daily ration (Exodus 16). In what ways are we tempted to ask for more than our daily bread? What may be the result?
3. Luther reminds us, "God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people." What evidence do you see that God extends His kindness to all people, without any "merit or worthiness" in them?
4. Jesus is the "bread of life" (John 6:35). How does His death and resurrection provide for our ultimate daily and eternal needs?
5. Share a time when you were grateful for God's gift of "daily bread."

PRAYER

[Father,] give us this day our daily bread
And let us all be clothed and fed. From warfare, rioting, and strife,
Disease, and famine save our life
That we in honest peace may live,
To care and greed no entrance give.

Copyright © 1980 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.