

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE FIFTH PETITION

DEVOTION

AND FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US.

What does this mean? We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him: whoever loves God must also love his brother. (1 John 4:20–21)

FOR SHARING

1. "I don't get mad; I get even." When have you been tempted to respond in this way?
2. In what ways does the refusal to forgive affect family and social structures?
3. "We daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment," Luther writes. What struggles do you face daily because of the "Old Adam" in you?
4. Jesus' prayer from the cross was, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). Describe the full forgiveness that Christ won and gave to us at Calvary.
5. "Bearing with each other and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive" (Colossians 3:13). Motivated by Christ and His mercy and love, how do we "bear with each other" and live under His cross?

PRAYER

[Father,] forgive our sins, let grace outpour That they may trouble us no more; We too will gladly those forgive Who harm us by the way they live. Help us in each community To serve with love and unity.

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