

Sermon – July 27, 2025 – 7th Pentecost – Year C

Psalms 19:14 “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.”
Please be seated.

Blessings to you. Last Sunday Pete expressed Martha’s prayer, which was said directly to Jesus – Jesus, tell Mary to get off her butt, and help me with all the work to be done for You and our guests.

In the very next part of Luke’s gospel, the disciples ask Jesus to teach them to pray. This is our focus today.

In our Baptismal Covenant, the first commitment we make to God regards prayer – Will you continue in the Apostles’ teaching, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?
I will with God’s help. **With God’s help.**

Prayer is to be part of our daily life with God. We are encouraged to pray constantly – in whatever context we believe that to be so. Prayer is our communication with God – as we praise Him, seek His counsel, offer thanksgivings, and ask forgiveness for our “less than good” thoughts, words and deeds.

Until I completely gave my life to God during a Cursillo weekend in September 1979, I did not consider prayer in any thoughtful context. OK, I went to church every Sunday, took communion, occasionally made my confession (back when I was a Catholic), and offered prayers before I had something to eat.

I find it easier to pray when I am not stressed, full of worry and/or anxiety; praying with others in during Sunday worship; when I have the prayers I want to pray written for me, say in the Book of Common Prayer. I have also learned many prayers that come to me time and again when I am trying to pray, one of these the Lord’s Prayer. Another is the

23rd Psalm. These prayers come to me in stressful times, when my mind is unable to THINK of any words which I seek to express to God what I really want to say for Him to understand my state of mind. At times I recall the scripture which says: “Do not worry about what you are to say, for the Spirit will give you the words.”

Remember our Baptismal Covenant about “the prayers” – **“I will with God’s help”**.

After the presentation of the Lord’s Prayer, Jesus continues His teaching about how to pray.

We are to **Ask** of God in Prayer – what are we to do in each situation, what do we think we need, (do we need help or is this something we are to be doing alone). Let’s not hesitate to ask God for anything.

We are to **Seek** the Good Life, the Fruit of the Spirit, in every situation. Love. Peace. Kindness. This seeking is a never-ending effort to live into the Kingdom of God on earth, to spread the Goodness of God’s Kingdom to you, and you, and everyone we meet; to offer our gifts as a volunteer; to have a kind attitude in whatever we have agreed to do. To be the best we can be.

We are to **Knock** on the door of opportunity as we sense the leading of the Holy Spirit of God to “DO” new, or usual stuff - perhaps in a different way. Let’s go!

We are to remember that prayer is about us. You and me together.

I want and believe that you want as well for LIFE to be peaceful, and full of love and goodness, patience and kindness. In times when LIFE is not this way, it is important for us to know we do not have to be perfect in our prayers to God for Him to listen. Our cries for God to be present, to help us in whatever way we need Him to help us, are from our

frazzled hearts. God knows our hearts. He wants us to pray. God loves us and wants only the best for us.

For me prayer involves reading scripture, writing in my journals, listening to God, talking with and praying with Nancy, paying attention to the world in which I find myself, and seeking the “fruit of the Spirit” – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control – moment by moment. **Prayer! Just do it!**

STORY. Last Sunday at coffee Dennis mentioned to me he would be having a procedure on Tuesday to put a stent in his carotid artery in his neck. I told him I would be praying. Nancy. Prayer team. Dennis said in 24 hours he had received a number of texts and emails saying he was being prayed for. **STORY.**

God is good. God calls you and me to a life of blessings beyond measure. We are called to listen and love. We are blessed. Praise to the Lord today and forever.

Let us pray. Thank you, God for today, a brand-new day in our life with You. Thank you for the opportunity to learn anew of the mystery of Your love in our lives. Guide us, Great Jehovah, in all we are about all the days of our lives. We pray in the Holy Name of Jesus. Amen. God bless you. Shalom. Amen.

Ray Rosch 7-27-2025