

Sunday 10 July 2022

Fourth Sunday after Trinity



This week, we continue thinking about the Lord's Prayer.

For older children:

☺ When Jesus taught his disciples, he was speaking Aramaic – his everyday language - which is a spoken form of Hebrew. Christians all over the world say the Lord's Prayer in their own language. Translating parts of the Bible into different languages can be very difficult, as some words have several meanings.

Today we are looking at the phrase which, in English, says "Save us from the time of trial" but which can also be translated: "Lead us not into temptation". This is in the older version of the prayer that we still sometimes use and may be the version you know best.

The Aramaic word Jesus used can be translated into English as "temptation" or "testing" or "trial" or "experiment". We can see why it becomes difficult to make an accurate translation and we thank God for the skills of those who have translated the Bible into so many languages – and continue to do so.

When we pray "lead us not into temptation", we are not asking God not to tempt us to do wrong! He is not trying to catch us out! We are praying that God will help us not to give in to the temptations that always come our way in life.

What is temptation? Well, when things go well, and we do well, we might be tempted by pride. When things go badly, we can be tempted by envy and resentment and anger. When life is good, and we are wealthy, and all is fine, we are tempted to forget about God; and when there is disaster and adversity, we are tempted to lose faith, and stop trusting in God.

We are all tempted in some way at different times in our lives. Temptations may be obvious or subtle.... they may come through friends or through those who are trying to lead us astray.... but temptation will never come from God.

In his letter, the Apostle James says, 'When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone' (James 1:13).

We now more often use the phrase "Save us from the time of trial". In other words, we pray that we will never have to suffer a time of testing that is greater than we can bear. Another way of putting it is that we will not be vulnerable to the powers of evil that work against God's kingdom and God's people. For many of us, maybe most of us, trials will come in our life. This is when our foundations are truly tested. If our lives are built on Jesus's teaching, we will be better able to withstand any temptations and trials that we face. Jesus teaches us to ask for God's help with this every time we pray this special prayer.

In the following line, we continue to pray that God will deliver us from evil. We see the power of evil in the world but, as Christians, we know that God has power over everything, including evil, and will always save us from any kind of evil if we turn to him and follow the teaching of Jesus.

For everyone:

**The Lord's Prayer finishes with an acclamation of God's power:
"The kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever"
and we all make it our own prayer by saying "Amen"
(which means "so be it") to that!**





**Have you managed to learn the Lord's Prayer by heart?
If you say it every day, you will soon know it!**

Praying, which is both listening and talking to God, is a wonderful way of staying close to God in our lives. It is good to try and make it an important part of our daily routine. Remember that we can share all our thoughts, our fears and our happy times with God. If nothing else, saying the Lord's Prayer thoughtfully and meaningfully every day will help us to stay focussed on what is really important as we try to follow Jesus day by day.

 **Another prayer for this week:**

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the example that Jesus gave us so that we would know how to pray. Help us to understand that prayer is talking to you, thanking you for all you do for us, asking you to lead us in our daily life, and telling you what is on our mind. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Below are some colouring activities for you.

My name is _____

The Lord's Prayer



Our Father which
art in

_____ ,

Hallowed be Thy

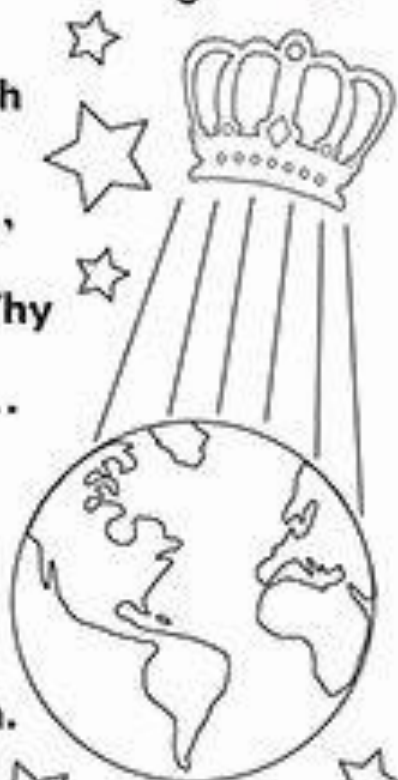
_____ .

Thy _____

come, Thy Will be done,

on _____

as it is in Heaven.



Give us this
day our daily

_____ ;



and forgive
us our debts,
as we

our debtors.



And lead us not into _____ ,

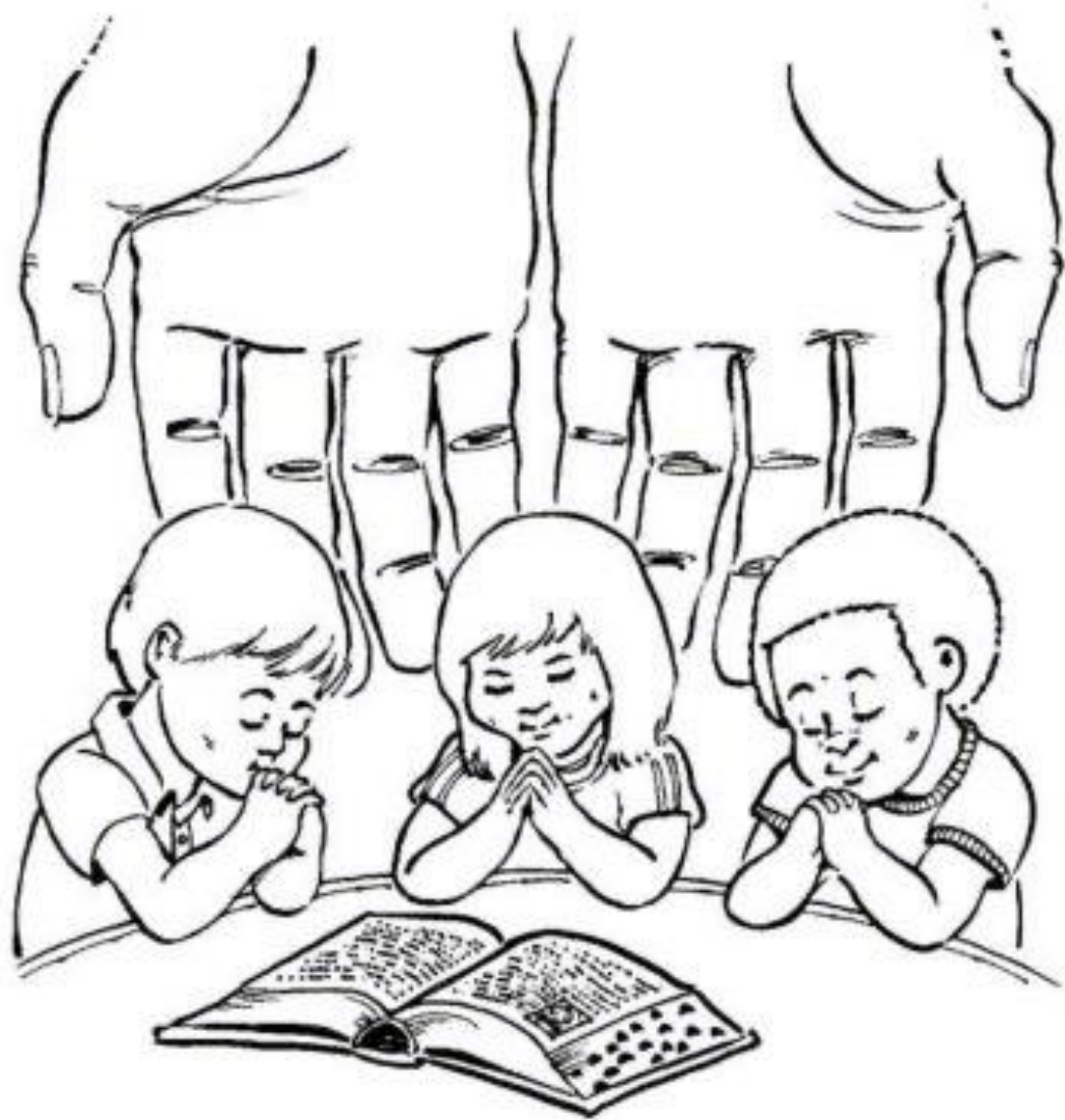
but deliver us from _____ : For Thine is

the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

forever. **Amen.**



Our Father



The 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.
Amen.

