Sing (*full text on page 2*): Psalter 282:1,2 - 204:1,2,3,4 - 66:1,2,3 - 278:1,2,3,4,5

Scripture: Psalm 103. Apostolic Creed

**THE ADDRESS IN THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**1. The calling upon God’s Name**

* Why has Christ *commanded* us to address God as our Father?
	+ Don’t necessarily have to say “Father”; the Lord ’s Prayer is a model or example.
	+ In the very beginning of our prayer there should be childlike reverence.
	+ We may use the Father Name even if we do not have the full assurance of faith.
	+ We should not come to God as if He is a tyrant.
	+ God’s people are adopted as children.
		- Christ wants them to be back with the Father.
		- By election (Eph. 1:4) born of God (1 John 3:9; 4:7; 5:1,4,18)
* Every prayer should have a short address:
	+ Reverence: have high thoughts of God and stand in awe of Him (Isa. 6:3; Rev. 4:13).
	+ But should be a filial fear, not a slavish fear.
* There should be a confidence in God.
	+ By nature, we do not have this confidence, but have hard thoughts of Him.
	+ When God comes into our heart:
		- We learn to see that the devil is our father.
		- Love to God is granted.

**2. The confidence in God’s Name**

* This confidence is the foundation of our prayer.
* Note that the only ground is Christ. Only for His sake the Lord can hear us.
* For God’s people the confidence is that God has become their Father in Christ.
* All those who are God’s children may come to Him with confidence that He will take care of them.
	+ He does not necessarily give what they like or desire.
	+ We need to leave things to the Lord.
	+ The Father loves to hear the cry of the needy.
* Our problem is that most of the time we do not have faith.
	+ Faith is as an empty hand.
* The Lord is so worthy to be honoured, served and glorified!

**3. The holiness of God’s Name**

* “Our Father Which art in heaven”.
	+ He is both near and far.
	+ We should not form an earthly conception of God’s heavenly majesty. God is holy.
* Two dangers regarding prayer:
	+ We may not consider God as one who is just a human being.
	+ We may not bring God down to the level of our own ability (e.g. as Luther once did).
		- God has the power to help.
		- Let us therefore come boldly (i.e. saying all) unto thethrone of grace (Heb. 4:16).

**Psalters**

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| **282** |
| 1. In the heavn's the Lord AlmightyFixed His everlasting throne;Over all is His dominion,He is God, and He alone | 2. Bless the Lord, ye mighty angels,Ye that hearken to His voice,All His gracious word fulfilling;Ever bless Him and rejoice. |

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| **204** |  |
| 1. O God, how good Thou artTo all the pure of heart,Tho' life seem vain;Burdened with anxious care,I groped in dark despair,Till in Thy house of prayerAll was made plain. | 2. Ever, O Lord, with Thee,All shall be well with me,Held by Thy hand;And Thou wilt guide my feetBy Thy own counsel sweet,Till I, for glory meet,In glory stand. |
| 3. In earth or heav'n aboveWho is there that I loveCompared with Thee?My heart may faint with fears,But God my strength appears,And will to endless yearsMy portion be. | 4. O it is good that IMay still to God draw nigh,As oft before;The Lord Jehovah blest,My refuge and my rest,Shall be in praise confessedFor ever more. |

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| **66** |  |  |
| 1. Ever are my longing eyesTow'rd the Lord, Whose watchful care,When my foes their plots devise,Keeps my feet from ev'ry snare. | 2. Turn to me, Thy grace impart,I am desolate indeed;Great the troubles of my heart;Save Thou me, O Lord, I plead. | 3. Look on my afflicted state,Freely all my sins forgive,Mark my foes, their cruel hate,Keep my soul and let me live. |

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| **278** |  |  |
| 1. The tender love a father hasFor all his children dear,Such love the Lord bestows on themWho worship Him in fear. | 2. The Lord remembers we are dust,And all our frailty knows;Man's days are like the tender grass,And as the flow'r he grows | 3. The flow'r is withered by the windThat smites with blighting breath;So man is quickly swept awayBefore the blast of death. |
| 4. Unchanging is the love of God,From age to age the same,Displayed to all who do His willAnd reverence His Name. | 5. Those who His gracious covenant keepThe Lord will ever bless;Their children's children shall rejoiceTo see His righteousness. |