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 Almighty  Fixed 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 art  To all the pure of heart,  Tho' life seem vain;  Burdened with anxious care,  I groped in dark despair,  Till in Thy house of prayer  All was made plain. | 2. Ever, O Lord, with Thee,  All shall be well with me,  Held by Thy hand;  And Thou wilt guide my feet  By Thy own counsel sweet,  Till I, for glory meet,  In glory stand. |
| 3. In earth or heav'n above  Who is there that I love  Compared with Thee?  My heart may faint with fears,  But God my strength appears,  And will to endless years  My portion be. | 4. O it is good that I  May still to God draw nigh,  As oft before;  The Lord Jehovah blest,  My refuge and my rest,  Shall be in praise confessed  For ever more. |

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| **66** |  |  |
| 1. Ever are my longing eyes  Tow'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 has  For all his children dear,  Such love the Lord bestows on them  Who 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 wind  That smites with blighting breath;  So man is quickly swept away  Before the blast of death. |
| 4. Unchanging is the love of God,  From age to age the same,  Displayed to all who do His will  And reverence His Name. | 5. Those who His gracious covenant keep  The Lord will ever bless;  Their children's children shall rejoice  To see His righteousness. | |