Jesus’ Model of Prayer
Part Five: The Father’s Guidance and Protection

Up to this point in the Lord’s Prayer, we have been praying about our relationship with God and those around us. Now, though, we shift to our call to take the life and message of Jesus into the world, and so our prayer shifts to guidance and protection, that we may be in the world, but not of it.

We begin by praying, “Lead us not into temptation.” This is a prayer for God to guide us in His will and ways, a prayer that as we are in the world, filled with temptations, God will keep us on His path. Why, though, is that so important? It isn’t just that we are to remain holy, it is that our holiness is part of God’s mission plan for the church. We must walk the walk if we are going to talk the talk.

God’s mission for the church is that we make disciples of all nations. In order to do that, we need to be in the world, where we can reach out to those around us, but not be of the world, living according to the world’s standards instead of God’s. To pray, “lead us not into temptation,” is to pray for God to keep us living for Him even as we reach out to a world filled with darkness. But it is not only a prayer for God to keep us holy in a dark world, it is a prayer for active guidance for our lives as we play our part in God’s mission. Temptations beckon us not just to do wrong things, but to fail to do right things.

If we only see sin as doing wrong things, we miss the point. At the heart of sin is a desire to live without God. It is that “independent streak” that leads us to actively do wrong, to fail to do right, and to live out of our own strength and for ourselves. In that light, perhaps the greatest temptation for many people today is to live a “distracted” life. When we live distracted lives, we lose God’s guiding voice in the midst of all the noise and we fail to use all that God has given us for His mission and purposes and instead waste His resources on lesser things. To pray, “lead us not into temptation,” then, is a dense prayer with many layers of meaning as we ask God to keep us living for His mission of making disciples of all nations.

This petition goes on to ask God to, “deliver us from evil.” It seems that what Jesus has in mind here is deliverance from the evil one who seeks to destroy all that God loves, including us. Jesus tells His disciples, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full” (John 10:10). Satan is seeking to kill and destroy God’s people. On the surface, this certainly takes place through a full frontal assault on our wellbeing. Satan attacks our physical, mental and emotional health, our holiness, and our provision. But there are deeper ways Satan attacks.

Describing him as a thief is instructive. One of the ways that our enemy kills us is by stealing, often sneakily snatching away the life that Jesus has come to give us. That life is the fullness of joy, peace, love, and all the fruit of the Spirit. The protection we pray for, then, goes beyond the surface level to the level of our inner fullness of life. Jesus is seeking to make our lives flourish, for when they do, our lives produce the fruit of His life and show the world that Jesus saves. We pray, then, that God protects us by keeping us rooted in Him as branches in the vine, that our lives would produce fruit that brings Him glory and draws others to salvation.

This, then, brings our brief exploration of the Lord’s Prayer to a close. The prayer itself ends with a doxological statement. Our heavenly Father, the King, is able to bring all this to pass, is able to bring the Kingdom into our midst, because the Kingdom, the power and the glory all belong to Him. There is much more to be said as we mine the depths of this prayer, but it is my prayer that you do not merely say these words, but reflect upon them and pray them from your heart, for as you do, you will enter more fully into the life our Lord has for you and you will flourish in Christ.

Yours in Christ, Fr. Karl+
Family Prayer

Prayer is certainly at the central core of a personal relationship with the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Why? Prayer is a dialogue, a conversation. We cannot maintain a relationship with someone with no conversation—speaking and listening. There are many commands to pray in the letters of St. Paul. Here are two typical commands from Paul: “Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful” (Colossians 4:2 NIV). “Pray continually” (1 Thessalonians 5:17). What these two commands have in common with most of the other commands to pray is that they are in the plural: You (plural)—not you (singular)—pray! In other words, the command to pray is not: “Each of you devote yourselves individually to prayer.” Rather it is this: “As a group, as a family, devote yourselves to prayer.”

Individual, personal prayer is surely important in the Scriptures. We have only to remember the example of Daniel to understand this—his prayer was individual and personal, though it was anything but private! But on the biblical view of things, individual prayer is secondary to corporate prayer. So it is—or ought to be—for us too. Prayer is primarily a family activity, whether it is the family prayer of the whole church in the Eucharist or the family prayer of our small groups or family prayer in our homes with our children.

Most parents express how difficult it is to regularly have times of family prayer in the home. I can certainly relate to this sentiment. Three of the biggest challenges that make it so difficult are (1) the awkwardness, (2) the potential of kids to be unruly and (3) the busyness of family life that leaves us too tired to pray. How do we respond to these challenges? First, the awkwardness of sitting down with your family to pray is—believe it or not—quickly overcome simply by a little bit of persistence. Whenever a new activity is introduced, especially a more formal and profound activity like prayer, awkwardness is nearly inevitable. But it goes away quickly, if we push through. Second, kids can be unruly; but the best way to handle that is to be gracious, and if necessary, gently correct them. My own biggest mistake in family prayer is impatience with my children. It is better that our kids look forward to family prayer, rather than sit still like perfect angels and hate it. Third, our families are certainly very busy and family prayer may require a bit more energy. But in your experience, doesn’t prayer bring about a mysterious rejuvenation as well?

A great way to introduce or revive family prayer in the home is doing Family Devotions with the Advent wreath. The season of Advent begins on November 30. Consider doing this simple order of prayer with your family. My kids love this service, and many families that I have spoken with love this order of prayer as well.

In Christ,
Deacon Joe
Thank you note…

“I would like to thank the lovely ladies of our ACW and Trinity Church for selecting me as “Honored Woman of the Year”. Also thank you for the lovely flowers. Thank you and may God bless you all.

Mildred Woods

COOK BOOKS

Advanced sales are on-going. Be sure to order your cook books early. The cost is $10. You may purchase yours in time for Christmas. They will make great gifts for family and friends. Hopefully, we can sell about 100 before our Thanksgiving Pot-Luck! Call Mildred Woods for further information.

FUTURE FACILITY UPDATE

We are making good progress in due diligence and finalizing a Purchase Sale Agreement with Woodbridge Pacific Group. As soon as we have results from the Ages to Ages Capital Campaign, we will resume work with our architect, Klassen, as we move into the “design development” phase where details are added to the plan so that construction documents can be drawn up. We are still on schedule for a late summer beginning of construction.

THANKSGIVING POTLUCK

Our Annual Thanksgiving Pot-Luck will be on Sunday, November 16th, after the 10:30 service. This will take place in St. John’s Gymnasium. We are asking for people to bring two non-perishable food items. We will also have a Raffle for a Gift Basket, valued at $35, with lots of goodies. If you have any questions, please call Mildred Woods.

REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERS of THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS and DIOCESAN CONVENTION DELAGATES

The Nominating Committee will be receiving names for replacements for the four Board members completing their three-year term and for our five Delegates to Diocesan Convention. Nominations need to be received by November 30th and can be sent to the church office. It is very important that those wishing to serve Jesus Christ in this capacity be aware of these duties and requirements:

- Have a strong personal commitment to Jesus Christ and carry out His ministry in our community under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- Be a communicant in good standing of Trinity Anglican Church who is regular in prayer, worship and giving to the operation of Trinity.
- Be active in the life of Trinity Anglican Church, and willing to assume leadership roles, including active participation in at least one parish ministry.
- Be a pledger of record who tithes or is actively working toward the tithe.
**COMMITMENT SUNDAY**

On Sunday, November 9, we will gather our Ages to Ages and Annual Operating Pledges during our services of worship. Don’t forget to bring your pledge card and envelope!

**JASON’S CHRISTMAS TREE SUNDAY**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ. It is with great joy that I announce that on Sunday, November 30, we will kick off our annual JASON’S CHRISTMAS TREE SUNDAY.

Because of the success of our ministry work at Jason’s Retreat these past two and a half years we are eager to continue our work there in cooperation with Bakersfield Recovery Services. Your generous outpouring of love and support this last Christmas season, to those women and men in Recovery, made their annual Christmas Party a truly glorious event. What greater blessing and encouragement can there be to those in active recovery than by taking some of the burden off of their families at Christmas time by providing a few Christmas gifts for their children. The wrapped gifts that we provide again this year will be delivered by the staff of Bakersfield Recovery Services to the children of their clients in Jason’s Retreat, Capistrano House and Lincoln Street Retreat. It is important that all wrapped gifts be turned in at the Church office no later than Monday, December 15th. Once again, our heartfelt thanks and blessings to you all for your generous love and support in our work.

Your brother in Christ,
Dn. John

**CHRISTMAS TEA**

All Trinity church women and guests are invited to the ACW Christmas Tea on Saturday, December 13th, at 2 pm, at First Congregational Church, located at 5 Real Rd.

The cost is $10.
Tickets are available after church or in the office during the week.

The cut-off date for purchasing your tickets is Monday, December 10th. We are not able to sell tickets after that date, and no tickets will be sold at the door, so buy your tickets before December 10th!

**TRINITY STATS**

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November 2014

WORSHIP SERVICES

**Sunday Morning**
At St. John’s Lutheran Church
8 a.m.  Holy Communion  
(1928 Prayer Book)
10:30 a.m.  Holy Communion  
(Rite II)

**Thursday Morning**
10 a.m.  Healing Service
5100 California Avenue

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The Messenger