

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Proper 12C)

The Prayer of the Church Is the Voice of Faith



Background: In this Post-Pentecost season, we are concentrating on Christ's direct training of His disciples and us, on successfully living the sanctified life. Jesus teaches us how to pray. He gives us the Lord's prayer. He tells us to pray boldly, for the things we need. He promises He will not give us a snake when we ask for a fish! We are commended to ask boldly for our needs. We recognize Abraham who first asked the Lord to spare Sodom and Gomorah if 50 righteous people were found in the city. Upon the Lord's agreement Abraham then asked the cities to be spared if 45 righteous were there, then 40, then 30, then 20 and finally 10! Alas, 10 were not found and the cities were destroyed, but God sent 2 angels to safely escort the righteous out of the towns before the fire and brimstone hit. Many people judge God and think, "He would not answer a prayer of particular needs. But God will act according to our best interests of spiritual development. So be bold in your prayer life.

Jesus teaches disciples how to Pray 1546 Monogamist HA (From Martin Luther's Small Catechism)

The Lessons: Genesis 18:(17–19) 20–33, Colossians 2:6–15 (16–19), & Luke 11:1–13
Jesus catechizes His disciples in the way of faith by teaching them how to pray. He promises us: "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you" (Luke 11:9). If earthly fathers know how to give good gifts to their children, "how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him" (Luke 11:13). Thus, father Abraham was bold in his prayer because he believed the gracious promise of the Lord, that he would "surely become a great and mighty nation" (Gen. 18:18). When we pray in Jesus' name, we also hold "fast to the Head" (Col. 2:19), "rooted and built up in him and established in the faith" (Col. 2:6–7).