

The Theology and Practice of Prayer
TH/SP 512
Vancouver School of Theology
July 11-15, 2016
2-5 p.m.

Richard R. Topping
Vancouver School of Theology, Rm. 401
Office: 604-822-9808
Email: richardt@vst.edu

“From the very beginning the Lord’s Prayer has occupied a place of singular honour in the life of the liturgy of Christian churches. It has been central to the formation of faith in every generation and has been interpreted to the faithful and to their children’s children by numberless teachers and theologians.” Don Saliers

Purpose: TH/SP 5/712 will introduce students to historic and contemporary expositions of the Lord’s Prayer in their liturgical, homiletic, catechetical, devotional, musical, artistic and historical settings. The course is an exercise in the “communion of the saints” as students learn (critically) to pray from and with the saints to God following the model of prayer taught to disciples of Jesus Christ. Particular attention will be paid to how the Lord’s Prayer is both interpreted in light of a context and is light by which a context is interpreted.

Competence Objectives: TH/SP 512 (basic degree M.Div)

In completing this course a student will be able to:

- 1) Enumerate and understand a range of treatments (liturgical, instructional, homiletic and exegetical) of the Lord’s Prayer in the Christian tradition.
- 2) Draw on this range of treatments of the Lord’s Prayer for inspiration and guidance in composing prayers for liturgical and devotional settings now.
- 3) Design a catechetical course that teaches adult learners to pray using the Lord’s Prayer coordinated with contemporary hymns, songs, movies, poems, drama, art and readings **or**
Design two services of worship in which the liturgy is formed around the theme of the Lord’s Prayer for the people of God in this time and place.

4) Experience a greater depth and width in her/his own life of prayer and in the leadership of corporate prayer to God.

TH/SP 712 (in addition to 1, 2 and 4 – for Th.M students)

- 5) Appreciate and assess critically a contemporary book on the Lord's Prayer.
- 6) Locate and contrast two historical and seminal treatments of the Lord's Prayer written in the same register (sermon with sermon, catechism with catechism, exegesis with exegesis) in their specific historical/cultural contexts.
- 7) Recommend specific critical retrievals from classic treatments of the Lord's Prayer for the faithful and relevant practice of prayer amidst the challenges of our own time.

Format:

This class meets three hours a day for one week. The primary format for the course will be lecture followed by discussion based on questions raised by the student's reading of course text books.

Expectations/Evaluation:

- 1) Class attendance, participation and preparation of all required reading before class.
- 2) Students will write six prayers based on each of the phrases taken up in the course. This is the only assignment required if you are taking the course for 1.5 credit. The phrases you will paraphrase and use to fund your own prayers are:

- 2.1. Our Father, who art in heaven
- 2.2. Hallowed be your name
- 2.3. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven
- 2.4. Give us this day our daily bread
- 2.5. Forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven our debtors
- 2.6. Bring us not to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one

Students will write a prayer of no longer than one page, which demonstrates an understanding of the phrase and the ability critically to follow the trajectory of the text in their own prayer. Students ought to identify where and with whom their prayer is offered. Evaluation of this assignment will be based on creative engagement with the particular phrase of the prayer for our times. **Due: August 31, 2016**

- 3) A final assignment will require that students prepare a course to teach the Lord's Prayer to a contemporary adult audience. This is required if you are taking the course for 3.0 credits. Students need to offer an exposition of the Lord's Prayer - the exposition

could be done in the form of a dialogue or catechism or drama. This exposition ought to be coordinated with hymns and songs and prayers and poems and movies/video clips and art that enhance and augment the exposition. **OR** Students can do the final assignment in the form of two sermons on the Lord's Prayer with the accompanying liturgy (prayers, hymns, and scriptures readings). Evaluation will be based on clarity and accuracy of exposition, depth of engagement with the Lord's Prayer and the implied public for whom the assignment is written. In both cases the written material should constitute no more than 5000 words and no less than 4500 words. **Due: August 31, 2016.**

TH/SP 712 (for Th.M. students)

4) Expectations 1 and 2 above.

5) A final paper (6500 words) that involves a contrast and comparison of two treatments of the Lord's Prayer that are written in the same form, two sermons, two catechetical treatments, two exegeses of Matthew or Luke. These should be treatments of the Lord's Prayer **not** read in the assigned reading. Evaluation will be based on the student's (a) appreciation of how the context in which the exposition of the Lord's Prayer is offered influences the treatment, (b) how the treatment of the Lord's Prayer interprets the context in which it is offered, (c) fairness to the sources and (d) how these treatments function to help enhance and deepen our own practice of prayer to God in this world, at this time.

6) An exposition and review of no less than 7 pages of a contemporary book length exposition of the Lord's Prayer to be selected in consultation with the instructor. Evaluation will be based on clarity of understanding, cogency of argument and concise evaluation.

Late Policy:

Submission of assignments on time is a part of academic, professional and pastoral competence and a part of every course at VST. All assignments in courses are due on the dates specified in the syllabus for each course. Failure to submit an assignment on time will be noted in the narrative evaluation of an assignment. Repeated failure to submit assignments on time may affect the final grade for the course. Particular faculty members will specify the extent to which repeated late submission of assignments will affect a student's final grade.

Required Texts/Readings: Pre-read the first book by Barth (Prayer) *before* the class. All these texts are available through Amazon. Use amazon.com for the Nicholas Ayo text where it is quite a bit cheaper, even with the exchange.

1. Barth, Karl. *Prayer: 50th Anniversary Edition*. Translated by Sara F. Terrien. Edited by Don E. Saliers. With Essays by I. John Hesselink, Daniel Migliore and Donald McKim. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2002.
2. Ayo, Nicholas, *The Lord's Prayer: A Survey Theological and Literary*. New York: Roman and Littlefield, 1992.
3. Willimon, William and Hauerwas, Stanley. *Lord, Teach us: The Lord's Prayer and The Christian Life*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996.

Day 1: The Place of the Lord's Prayer and "Our Father in heaven . . ."

Readings: Ayo, *The Lord's Prayer*, 1-31, 117-124; Willimon/Hauerwas, *Lord, Teach Us*, 1-41.

Day 2: "Hallowed by Your Name . . ."

Readings: Ayo, pp. 33-38, 125-129; Willimon/Hauerwas, pp. 42-49.

Day 3: "Your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is on heaven"

Readings: Ayo, pp. 39-49, 131-144; Willimon/Hauerwas, pp. 50-69.

Day 4: "Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors"

Readings: Ayo, pp. 55-85, 145-167; Willimon/Hauerwas, pp. 70-86.

Day 5: "And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one."

Readings: Ayo, pp. 87-98, 169-190; Willimon/Hauerwas, pp. 87-95.

Working Bibliography

- Andrewes, Lancelot. Sermons VII through XIX at <http://anglicanhistory.org/lact/andrewes/v5/> Project of Anglo-Catholic Theology, Lancelot Andrewes Works, Sermons, Volume 5. Transcribed by Dr. Mariane Dorman, 2002.
- Aquinas, Thomas. The Catechism of Thomas Aquinas: Explanation of the Lord's Prayer. "Five Qualities of Prayer" and "The Fourth Petition" @ <http://www.cin.org/users/james/ebooks/master/aquinas/apray0.htm> and <http://www.cin.org/users/james/ebooks/master/aquinas/apray04.htm>

- Augustine. *St. Augustine: The Lord's Sermon on the Mount*. Volume 5. Translated by John J. Jepson. In *Ancient Christian Writers: The Works of the Father's in Translation*. Edited by Janannes Quasten and Joseph Plumpe. Westminster, Maryland, 1948.
- Ayo, Nicholas, C.S.C. *The Lord's Prayer: A Survey Theological and Literary*. Notre Dame, 1992.
- Barth, Karl. *Prayer*. 2nd edition. Edited by Don E Saliers. Translated by Sara R. Terrien. Philadelphia, 1985.
- Boff, Leonardo. *The Lord's Prayer: The Prayer of Integral Liberation*. Translated by Theodore Morrow. Maryknoll: New York, 1983.
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. "They Kingdom Come: The Prayer of the Church for God's Kingdom on Earth." In *Preface to Bonhoeffer: The Man and Two Shorter Writings*, 27-47. Edited by John Godsey. Philadelphia, 1965.
- Brown, Michael Joseph. *The Lord's Prayer Through North African Eyes: A Window into Early Christianity*. New York, 2004.
- Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. Volume 21. Translated and edited by Ford Lewis Battles. Edited by John T. McNeill. In *The Library of Christian Classics*. Philadelphia, 1960.
- Chemnitz, Martin. *The Lord's Prayer*. Translated by Georg Williams. St. Louis, 1999.
- Committee on Church Doctrine. *Catechism for Today*. Montreal, 2006. See questions 127-141.
- Cranmer, Thomas. *A Catechism set Forth by Thomas Cranmer: From the Nuremberg Catechism translated into Latin by Justus Jonas*. Introduced and annotated by D.G. Selwyn. Oxford, 1978.
- Crossan, John, D. *The Greatest Prayer: Rediscovering the Revolutionary Message of the Lord's Prayer*. New York: Harpers, 2011.
- Duck, Ruth C. *Gender and the Name of God: The Trinitarian Baptismal Formula*. New York, 1991.
- Frye, Roland Mushat. "On Praying 'Our Father:' The Challenge of Radical Feminist Language for God," pp. 209-228. In *The Politics of Prayer: Feminist Language and The Worship of God*. Edited by Helen Hull Hitchcock. San Francisco, 1992.
- Gregory of Nyssa. *The Lord's Prayer; The Beatitudes*. Volume 18. Translated by Hilda C. Graef. In *Ancient Christian Writers: The Works of the Father's in Translation*. Edited by Janannes Quasten and Joseph Plumpe. Westminster, Maryland, 1948.
- Griffiths, Paul J. *Religious Reading: The Place of Reading in the Practice of Religion*. Oxford, 1999.
- Jai Singh, Herbert. *The Lord's Prayer: Indian Christian Thought Series*, no. 8. Delhi: I.S.P.C.K., 1985.
- Lampe, Geoffrey W. "Our Father in the Fathers." In *Christian Spirituality: Essays in Honour of Gordon Rupp*. Edited by Peter Brooks, pp. 9-31. London, 1975.

- Latimer, Hugh. "First Sermon on the Lord's Prayer." In *Selected Sermons of Hugh Latimer*. Edited by Allan G. Chester, pp. 158-174. *Folger Documents of Tudor and Stuart Civilization*. Charlottesville, 1968.
- Lochman, Jan Milič. *The Lord's Prayer*. Translated by Geoffrey W. Bromiley. Grand Rapids, 1990.
- Lohmeyer, Ernst. *The Lord's Prayer*. Translated by John Bowden. London, 1965.
- Luther, Martin. *The Large Catechism*. Translated by Robert H. Fisher. In *The Book of Concord*. Translated and Edited by Theodore G. Tappert in collaboration with Jaroslav Pelikan, Robert H. Fisher and Arthur C. Piepkorn. Philadelphia, 1959.
- Migliore, Daniel L. Editor. *The Lord's Prayer: Perspectives for Reclaiming Christian Prayer*. Grand Rapids, 1993.
- Origen. *Prayer: Exhortation to Martyrdom*. Volume 19. Translated by John J. O'Meara. In *Ancient Christian Writers: The Works of the Fathers in Translation*. Edited by Janannes Quasten and Joseph Plumpe. Westminster, Maryland, 1948.
- Petuchowski, Jakob and Brocke, Michael. Editors. *The Lord's Prayer and Jewish Liturgy*. New York, 1978.
- Shomanah, Musa W. Dube. "Praying the Lord's Prayer in a Global Economic Era." *Ecumenical Review* 49/4 (October, 1997): 439-450.
- Solle, Dorothee. "Gebet." In *Theologie für Nichttheologen*. Stuttgart, 1966.
- Stevenson, Kenneth W. *The Lord's Prayer: A Text in Tradition*. Minneapolis, 2004.
- Teresa of Avila. *The Way of Perfection*. Translated and edited by E. Allison Peers. New York, 1991.
- Tertullian. "On Prayer," pp. 681-691. In *The Ante-Nicene Fathers*. Volume 3: *Latin Christianity: Its Founder, Tertullian*. Edited by Alexander Roberts and James Donaldson. New York, 1908.
- Ursinus, Zacharias and Olevianus, Casper. *The Heidelberg Catechism with Scripture Texts*. English Translation. Grand Rapids, 1989. See questions 116-129.
- Weil, Simone. *Waiting for God*. Translation by Emma Craufurd. New York, 2001.
- Wesley, John. *Sermons I: 1-33*. In *The Works of John Wesley*. Edited by Albert C. Outler. Nashville, 1984.
- Willimon, William and Stanley Hauerwas. *Lord Teach Us: The Lord's Prayer and the Christian Life*. Nashville, 1996.
- Work, Telford. *Ain't Too Proud to Beg: Living Through the Lord's Prayer*. Grand Rapids, 2007.
- Wright, N.T. *The Lord and His Prayer*. New Edition. Grand Rapids, 2014.