

DEVOTIONAL AID FOR 2 AUGUST 2021 – 8 AUGUST 2021



**UPPER
HUNTER**
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dear church family,

This week, we turn to the first petition or request of Lord's Prayer: "Hallowed be Your name". Another translation might say, "may Your name be kept holy". We know "holy" means dedicated or set apart for a special purpose. So in this first petition, we are asking our Father in heaven that His name may be shown as set apart from any kind of distortion.

God's name, or God Himself is misused and misunderstood all the time. And that's not only when someone uses God's name as a swear word, or as a way to express shock, disappointment, and disbelief. People simply do not know God as He really is. Despite His trustworthy revelation through the Bible and His Son Incarnate, Jesus Christ, people still do not know how glorious He is. God is always more beautiful, more glorious, more just and loving, more merciful and kind, more powerful and wise than we can ever know. So we want to keep growing in knowing Him more and more.

So, let us keep praying to our most wonderful Father in heaven, "Hallowed be Your name."

Yours in Christ,

Timothy Lee

<https://www.upperhunterpc.com>

THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM¹

Lord's Day 47

Q122) What does the first request mean?

A) "Hallowed be Your Name" means, help us to really know You, to bless, worship, and praise You for all Your works and for all that shines forth from them: Your almighty power, wisdom, kindness, justice, mercy, and truth. And it means, help us to direct all our living—what we think, say, and do—so that Your name will never be blasphemed because of us but always honoured and praised.

JEREMIAH 9:23–24

Jer 9:23 Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, 24 but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD."

How we easily boast in our strength and cleverness. How easily we want to show off our wealth and our skills in accumulating that wealth. We want to be seen as someone better than the next guy, and we want that because we are always in pursuit of our own glory. Yet, such a pursuit will not satisfy. There will always be someone who is stronger, wiser, more knowledgeable, richer and more skilled. And, if the lives of the top athletes and scientists and business man and all the famous people are any indication, reaching the "top" seems only to bring emptiness and loneliness. There is only one who can truly satisfy all our longings. There is only one who is truly wise, strong, rich, and beautiful. God is the only one who possesses every good we ever wished for to the infinite degree. And when we know Him, not when we have all these good things, but when we know Him, then we can be satisfied.

Prayer

Father in heaven, may I know you truly. There are so many distractions and temptations to lead me astray. Please keep me from thinking about you wrongly, thinking of you in a small way, in a manageable way. May Your name be kept holy in my thoughts, in my speech, and in my actions. I pray in Jesus's name. Amen.

PSALM 115:1

*Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory,
for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!*

Humans are amazing. At the moment, I can simply turn on the TV and watch the Olympic Games happening in Tokyo. There are so many amazingly talented people and those who put a great amount of effort into honing their skills to take them to the next level. And this is not only in the area of sports. In science, music, literature, we see what amazing creature we are. Yet, if we're to stop at this and forget the Creator, we have effectively made ourselves gods to worship. We would have become idolators. In view of all God's grand work in creation and redemption, the only proper response is to praise Him for all He has done. To turn that praise towards ourselves would be a most irrational and foolish reaction.

Prayer

Father God, you have done great things. You made the world and you sustain the world every second. And, despite our guilt before the holy God you are, in your great love for us, you have sent your one and only Son so he may redeem us by His own death and resurrection. Your works are truly wonderful. Your works are unmatched in its power and beauty and goodness. To you and you alone may I give glory. You alone deserve glory in everything. May I live for your glory alone. I pray in Jesus's name. Amen.

¹ The text of the Catechism is usually from <https://threeforms.org/heidelberg-catechism/>, but time to time, for the sake of clarity, I have also adopted the translation used in *The Good News We Almost Forgot* by Kevin DeYoung.