

Sermon for the 10th Sunday after Pentecost<sup>1</sup>  
28 July 2013

Christ Church, Georgetown  
(The Rev.) Christopher Garcia

### *The Lord's Prayer Sermon Drama*

*Intended to be read or performed as with two actors, one ("Person") on stage and visible, the other ("God") off stage.<sup>2</sup>*

**Person:** Our Father, who art in heaven ...

**God:** Yes?

**Person:** Don't interrupt me! I'm praying.

**God:** But you called me.

**Person:** Called you? Am I hearing things? No, I didn't call you. I'm praying.  
"Our Father, who art in heaven . . ."

**God:** There, you did it again.

**Person:** Did what?

**God:** Called *me*. You said, "Our Father, who art in heaven." Here I am.  
What's on your mind?

**Person:** But I didn't *mean* anything by it. I was, you know, like just saying  
my prayers for the day. I always say the Lord's Prayer. It makes me  
feel good, sort of like getting a job done.

**God:** Well, all right. Go on.

**Person:** Okay. "Hallowed be thy name..."

**God:** Hold it! What do you mean by that?

**Person:** By what?

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<sup>1</sup> Proper 12, RCL, Year C. Genesis 18:20-32; Psalm 138; Colossians 2:6-19; Luke 11:1-13. "O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*"

<sup>2</sup> Adapted from a script copyright (c) 1995 by Mathew Pole, and other similar scripts found on line.

- God:** By “hallowed be thy name”?
- Person:** It means...it means.... Good grief! How should I know what it means? It’s just part of the prayer. (*pause*) What **does** it mean?
- God:** It means honored, holy, wonderful.
- Person:** That makes sense. I never thought about what hallowed meant before. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
- God:** Do you really mean that?
- Person:** Of course! Why not?
- God:** What are you doing about it?
- Person:** Doing about it? Nothing, I suppose. I just think it would be rather helpful if you got control of things down here the way you have up there. We are kind of in a mess down here, you know.
- God:** Yes, I know. But, have I got control of **you**?
- Person:** Well, I go to church.
- God:** That isn’t what I asked you. What about that habit of gossip you have? And your bad temper? You really have a problem there, you know. And then there’s the way you spend your money - all on yourself. And what about the kinds of books you read and what you watch on TV?
- Person:** Now hold on. Let’s not get personal here. Stop picking on me! I’m just as good as anyone else down at the church!
- God:** Excuse me. I thought you were praying for **my** will to be done. If that is going to happen, it will have to start with people who are praying for it. Like you, for example.
- Person:** Oh, all right! I guess I do have a few hang-ups. Now that you mention it, I probably could name some others.
- God:** So could I.

- Person:** I haven't thought about it much until now, but I really would like to cut out some of those things. I would like to, you know, be really free.
- God:** Good! Now we're getting somewhere! We'll work together, you and I. Some real victories can be won. I'm proud of you!
- Person:** Look, Lord, I need to finish this up here. This is taking a lot longer than it usually does! Give us this day our daily bread .
- God:** You need to cut down on the bread. You're getting a little overweight, aren't you?
- Person:** Hey! Wait a minute! What is this? Here I am saying my prayers and all of a sudden you break in and remind me of all my faults!
- God:** Praying is an amazing thing. You could end up changed, you know. That's what I'm trying to get across to you. You called me, and here I am. It's too late to stop now. Keep on praying. I'm very interested in the next part of your prayer.
- Person:** I'm afraid to...
- God:** Afraid of what?
- Person:** I know what you'll say!
- God:** Try me and see.
- Person:** Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
- God:** What about . . . Robert?
- Person:** See! I knew you would bring him up! Why, Lord he told lies about me, and he never paid back the money I loaned him last year. I swear that I'll get even with him.
- God:** But your prayer. What about your prayer?
- Person:** I . . . I didn't really mean it.
- God:** Well, at least you're honest! But it's not much fun carrying around that bitterness and resentment, is it?

- Person:** No, but I'll feel better as soon as I get even! Have I got some plans for that Robert!
- God:** You won't feel any better. You'll feel worse. Revenge isn't sweet. Think of how unhappy you are right now. But I can change all that.
- Person:** You can? How?
- God:** Forgive Robert. Then the hate and sin will be between Robert and me – Robert's issue and not yours. You may lose the money he owes you, but you will have settled your heart.
- Person:** Oh, you know, you're right. You always are. As much as I want revenge, I want to be right with You . . (sigh). All right, all right. I forgive him. I'll let it go.
- God:** There now! Wonderful! How do you feel?
- Person:** Hmmm. Well, not bad. Not bad at all! In fact, I feel pretty great! You know, I don't think I'll go to bed uptight tonight, for the first time in a long time. I haven't been sleeping well, you know?
- God:** Yes, I know. But, you're not through with your prayer yet, are you? Go on.
- Person:** Oh, all right. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
- God:** Good! Good, I'll do that. But please don't put yourself in a place where you can be tempted. Go ahead. Finish your prayer.
- Person:** For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.
- God:** Do you know what would bring me glory -- What would make me really happy?
- Person:** No, but I'd like to know. I want to please you now. I have really made a mess of things. I truly want to follow you. I can see now how great that would be. So, tell me... How do I make you happy?

**God:** The thing that brings me glory is to have people like you truly love me. And I see that happening between us. Now that we're communicating, there's no telling what we can do together.

**Person:** Amen.