

**Alternative versions
of the Lord's Prayer**

(MATTHEW 6V9-13 NIV)

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven
our debtors.
And lead us not into
temptation,
but deliver us
from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and
the power and the glory,
forever. Amen.

.....
(THE MESSAGE, 2002)

Our Father in heaven,
Reveal who you are.
Set the world right;
Do what's best --
As above, so below.
Keep us alive
with three square meals.
Keep us forgiven with you and
forgiving others.
You're in charge!
You can do anything you
want! You're ablaze in beauty!
Yes. Yes. Yes.

.....
(THE PASSION TRANSLATION)

Our Father, dwelling in the
heavenly realms, may the
glory of your name be the
center on which our lives turn.

Manifest your kingdom realm,
and cause your every purpose
to be fulfilled on earth,
just as it is fulfilled in heaven.
We acknowledge you as our
Provider of all
we need each day.

Forgive us the wrongs we
have done as we ourselves
release forgiveness to those
who have wronged us.
Rescue us every time we face
tribulation and set us free
from evil.
For you are the King who rules
with power and glory forever.
Amen.'

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(NEW ZEALAND PRAYER BOOK)

Eternal Spirit
Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer,
Life-giver, source of all
that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all.
Loving God, in whom is
heaven. The hallowing of your
name echoes through the
universe!
The way of your justice be
followed by the peoples of the
earth!
Your heavenly will be done by
all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace
and freedom sustain our hope
and come on earth.
With the bread we need for
today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from
one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and
test, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil,
free us.
For you reign in the glory of
the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.

.....
Dear One, closer to us than
our own hearts, farther from
us than the most distant star,
you are beyond naming.

May your powerful presence
become obvious not only in
the undeniable glory of the
sky, but also in the seemingly
base and common processes
of the earth.

Give us what we need, day by
day, to keep body and soul
together, because clever as
you have made us, we still
owe our existence to you.

We recognize that to be
reconciled with you, we must
live peaceably and justly with
other human beings, putting
hate and bitterness behind us.

We are torn between our faith
in your goodness and our
awareness of the evil in your
creation, so deliver us from
the temptation to despair.

Yours alone is the universe
and all its majesty and beauty.
Amen.

.....

(A LORD'S PRAYER FOR JUSTICE ~ by Ronald Rolheiser)

OUR FATHER... who always stands with the weak, the powerless, the poor, the abandoned, the sick, the aged, the very young, the unborn, and those who, by victim of circumstance, beat the heat of the day.

WHO ART IN HEAVEN... where everything will be reversed, where the first will be last and the last will be first, but where all will be well and every manner of being, will be well.

HALLOWED BE THY NAME... may we always acknowledge your holiness, respecting that your ways are not our ways, your standards are not our standards. May the reverence we give your name pull us out of the selfishness that prevents us from seeing the pain of our neighbor.

YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE... open our freedom to let you in, so that the complete mutuality that characterizes your life might flow through our veins, and thus the life that we help generate may radiate your equal love for all, and your special love for the poor.

ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN... may the work of our hands, the temples and

structures we build in this world, reflect the temple and the structure of your glory so that the joy, graciousness, tenderness, and justice of heaven will show forth within all of our structures on Earth.

GIVE... life and love to us and help us to always see everything as a gift. Help us to know that nothing comes to us by right and that we must give because we have been given to. Help us realize that we must give to the poor, not because they need it, but because our own health depends upon our giving to them.

US... the truly plural us... Give not just to our own but to everyone, including those who are very different than the narrow us. Give your gifts to all of us equally.

THIS DAY... not tomorrow... Do not let us push things off into some indefinite future so that we can continue to live justified lives in the face of injustice because we can make good excuses for our inactivity.

OUR DAILY BREAD... so that each person in the world may have enough food, enough clean water, enough clean air, adequate health care, and sufficient access to education, so as to have the sustenance

for a healthy life. Teach us to give from our sustenance and not just from our surplus.

AND FORGIVE US OUR SINS... forgive us our blindness toward our neighbor, our self-preoccupation, our racism, and our incurable propensity to worry only about ourselves and our own. Forgive us our capacity to watch the evening news and do nothing about it. Do not put us to the test...do not judge us only by whether we have fed the hungry, given clothing to the naked, visited the sick, or tried to mend the systems that victimized the poor. Spare us this test for none of us can stand before your gospel scrutiny. Give us, instead, more days to mend our ways, our selfishness, and our systems.

DELIVER US FROM EVIL... that is, from the blindness that let us continue to participate in anonymous systems within which we need not see who gets less as we get more.

AMEN