

Standing, we sing: Psalm 20:1,2,5.

Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth¹. Beloved, grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ². By the powerful operation of God the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Sing Psalm 66:1, 9.

Prayer

Doxology:

Worship:

Confession:

Supplication (for pardon of sins):

Thanksgiving:

Intercession (for the need of the congregation, the church, authorities, sinful world and appeal to the promises of God)

General supplication:

Illumination of the Holy Spirit (necessary for the ministry of the Word):

Amen.

Sing Psalm 68:2

Scripture reading: Jeremiah 9ⁱ

Text: Jeremiah 9:24; Catechism Lord's Day 47

²⁴But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.

The first thing to have clarity about, with regards to, is that there is marked difference between our nature and the nature of the Lord.

- An example: on the Lord's instruction, Adam named the animals. Stated slightly differently: He named those things, which the Almighty created.
- By so doing he was confronted by the revelation of the Almighty God, and had to perform the task with adoration.
- That alone is an indication of how much smaller and weaker we are in comparison with the Lord.
- The Lord's Name is His Being – and in antiquity, respect made them fearful of pronouncing the Name of the Lord.

Which brings us to the question: being profane, how can we honour the eternally holy God, by our word or worship? Job once asked a similar question:

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²Can a man be profitable unto God, as he that is wise may be profitable unto himself? ³Is it any pleasure to the Almighty, that thou art righteous? or is it gain to him, that thou makest thy ways perfect? (Job 22:2-3)

In this sermon we pay attention to the following three matters:

¹ Psalm 124:8

² 1 Corinthians 1:3

1. **The work of the angels.**
2. **The prayers of the faithful.**
3. **The Lord Jesus Christ and His love for us.**

1. The work of the angels

The angels do something, which each one of us, who worships sincerely, wishes to do.

- Which is to the worship and glorify the Lord, as it should be done. And surely more importantly: because it spontaneously comes forth from the depths of our hearts. Which is exactly where the first petition of the Our Father fits in: **"Hallowed be thy name"**
- Those angels, who did not fall into sin with Satan, are qualified to perfectly serve and worship the Lord.
 - Their entire survival consists therein
 - They naturally have access to the perfect heaven where God's throne is.
- What is it that they do, that we too must do? Lets look at what is written in the Bible.
- It means that we implore the Holy Spirit to make us holy, so that we may understand what we need to do to hallow Him, but also so that we may be qualified to what is right, and so glorify Him.
 - The Lord commands us to be holy, think of Leviticus 19:2 as an example:
 - **²Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy**

The angels were given the same commandment. Which is why each one of those, who revolted against the Lord, by wanting His holiness for themselves, was cast out of heaven.

- Those who remain in heaven, praise God day and night (Psalm 130:20). The Lord says of them:
- **²⁰Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.**
- Logically we must do the same: We must be glad in the Lord and rejoice; we must sing Psalms to the glory of His Name, the Name of the Most High, (Psalm 9:2)
- The Lord also gives us exactly this commandment:
- **²⁰For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.** (1 Corinthians 6:20).

Let us summarise this: the angels are creatures as we are creatures.

- We are both created to the glory of the Lord and together we must exult His glory.
- The Lord once granted Isaiah the grace to see how this happens in heaven. He saw and heard how that one angel cries to the other saying:
 - ³... Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.** (Isaiha 6:3).

2. The prayer of the faithful

We know ourselves after all! It is not without cause that we confess that we are by nature inclined to hate God!

- It is not out of ourselves that we feel like worshipping the Lord. But that it is so, is wrong and it must change.
- Like the angels do, we must find our life and joy in the glorification of God. Think of the famous words: **¹¹Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.** (Revelation 4:11)

Even though we remain on earth, the Lord Jesus Christ has redeemed us from sin.

- Which is why those who truly believe in God, are driven by the Holy Spirit to pray that the Lord's Name may be hallowed in their lives.
- Each person who understands his sin, and the need to be redeemed from it, has this desire to be renewed in his heart. He wants to move closer to the Lord, and he wishes to increasingly experience the Lord's presence in his life.

That is how it is supposed to be with us. When we pray that the Lord's Name may be hallowed, it is not a confession or declaration in the first instance:

- It is a supplication with which we stand before the Lord and we beg Him of Him to change us, so that we may live towards Him, and better glorify and serve Him by our lives.
- The more the Lord's Name is hallowed in my life, the more I am able to thank Him for saving me from sin.
- But at the same time, I can also experience closer communion with Him.

This prayer that the Lord's Name may be hallowed in my life, is naturally also preparation for eternal life.

- It is exactly because we know of the life at the other side this one that we also realise that we can get there only if the Lord prepares us for it. He also allows entrance to that life to only those who truly know and worship Him.
- As a result of my sin, I am unable to spontaneously and rightly worship Him in all that I do, hence I must always continue praying: Hallowed be thy name, because I wish to know the Lord aright, and I wish to praise Him when I worship Him.
- For the true believer it is the desire of his soul.

We join in with Deuteronomy 32:3: **³Because I will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God.**

3. The Lord Jesus Christ and His love for us.

In His high priestly prayer, the Lord Jesus said something which must strike each one of us:

³And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. (John 17:3)

Which is what it is all about. Jesus Christ wishes to have us in eternal life. And the only way to get there is if we know the Lord.

- That is why He came to earth and died to reconcile our sin, so that the obstruction could be broken through.
- Now we may know God again, because the reconciliation wrought by the Lord Jesus Christ made it possible, because the purpose of His coming was to save us and to assure us of that salvation.

One of the things which happened as a result of the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus, is that the Holy Spirit was poured out over the church – which is to say: over us. Now the Holy Spirit leads us to pray and leads us in what we must pray.

The content and substance of the prayer is that God would make us, who are guilty and full of profanity, qualified to worship Him, as it should be done, because we know who He truly is.

It is important to know that we are not to pray this for selfish reasons.

- In other words, we must not pray merely for personal salvation and our own relationship with the Lord – naturally that has its place too.
- But it is also important that a powerful witness must proceed from each one of us, to the rest of the world, so that also they may know who the Lord is.

Obviously, not everyone who hears our witness, and observes our worship of the Lord, will be convinced and converted.

- But it is also true that they will have to appear before God in the Final Judgment, and the Lord will use our witness to judge them.
- They must hear from us regarding the matters of God, so that they may not be able to excuse themselves because we neglected our calling to witness.

You see, it is terribly important that we reveal the power of the Lord Jesus' grace to the world. And as we cannot do it of ourselves, we pray God the father to help us to do so, because it is He himself who hallows his Name in our lives.

We have not forgotten what is written in Matthew 25:31:

³¹When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

Let us wait on the Lord in the knowledge that God hallows His Name under us, so that we may share the glory of Christ.

- Which naturally asks of us a life of daily conversion. Even though it may be difficult, the angels watch us.

The Lord says to them:

¹⁰Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth. (Luke 15:10).

We have an immense comfort, which is that we may know that in His grace, the Lord converts us, where we sin. He makes us to know Him, even though our own nature is not inclined to know and worship Him. You know the well-known words in Jeremiah where the Lord promised that He will change us Himself:

³³But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more. (Jeremiah 31:33-34).

Let us read read Catechism Lord's Day 46.

Question 122. Which is the first petition?

Answer: "Hallowed be thy name"; that is, grant us, first, rightly to know thee, (a) and to sanctify, glorify and praise thee, (b) in all thy works, in which thy power, wisdom, goodness, justice, mercy and truth, are clearly displayed; and further also, that we may so order and direct our whole lives, our thoughts, words and actions, that thy name may never be blasphemed, but rather honoured and praised on our account. (c)

May we be according the words of the Psalmist:

⁸Let my mouth be filled with thy praise and with thy honour all the day. (Psalm 71:8).

And we make our glory to be according to the verse: ... But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I *am* the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD.

Amen.

Prayer.

Sing Psalm 144:1.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all.³

Amen.

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Reformed Church Bellville
Date: 2 January 2011

Accompanying Bible verses:

- (a) John 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. Jer.9:24 But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD. Jer.31:33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. Jer.31:34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more. Matt.16:17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. Ps.119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.
- (b) Ps.119:137 Righteous art thou, O LORD, and upright are thy judgments. Luke 1:46 And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, Luke 1:47 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. Luke 1:68 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, Luke 1:69 And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;

³ 2 Corinthians 13:14

Rom.11:33 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! Rom.11:34 For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? Rom.11:35 Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? Rom.11:36 For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

- (c) Ps.71:8 Let my mouth be filled with thy praise and with thy honour all the day. Ps.115:1 Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake.

ⁱ <http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah%209&version=KJV>