

***OUR FATHER**

Your people are very confused right now, Lord, questioning when they will hear from you.
Your people are wondering:

- *Is he there?
- *Will he listen?
- *How quiet must we be?
- *Will he be offended if we shout?
- *What about if we cry?

**THERE ARE TIMES WHEN SILENCE REPRESENTS THE HIGHEST RESPECT.
THE WORD FOR THAT IS REVERENCE.**

Actually, your people DO know that you are there, and that you will and you do listen.

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW.

***WHO ART IN HEAVEN**

Really? Exactly where is that?
Is heaven wherever you are, God?
Are you right here — beside us and within us?
Could it be that wherever God is, that is heaven? Hmmmm.

**HOW VITAL IS IT THAT WE PRAY ARMED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT
GOD IS IN HEAVEN?₁**

***HALLOWED BE THY NAME**

Holy Creator, your name is revered by your people.
You are known as God, our Father, our Creator, Abba, Jehovah, Lord, and so many more names.
There are more than 80 names for you in the Old Testament.
All names attributed to you, "Holy-One", are sacred. They are venerated, adored, and worshipped.

PRAISE HIM ALL CREATURES HERE BELOW

***THY KINGDOM COME**

Will you tell us, Lord, does Your Kingdom come in the midst of travesty?
Yes, Your People know the story of the Cross.
But, is it here in the midst of the corona virus?
Does it come in peace?
Or maybe, does it bring peace?
Will we ever get to see your kingdom while we live on earth?
Perhaps it comes when Thy will is done.

***THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH**

God, your people ask:

- Just how do we know what Thy Will is?
- We read our Bibles.
- We study.
- We pray.
- Does that really help Your People to know Your Will?

Are we maybe doing Your Will when we feel in our hearts that something is right, along with a sense of the Holy Spirit within us? Could that be Your Will?

***AS IT IS IN HEAVEN**

It's just a guess here, but we're pretty sure that everything that is done in Heaven is as You Will it.

PRAISE HIM ABOVE, YE HEAVENLY HOST

***GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD**

Father, your people, right here where we live, are trying to help others to receive their daily needs.

- In some instances, food is now being delivered to homes without a delivery charge.
- Individuals are doing the same, leaving food on doorsteps—helping neighbors and strangers.
- Some banks and landlords are forgiving months of payments.
- Some utilities are not shutting us off if we can't pay right now.
- There are restaurants that are dishing up food for the needy.
- State and local governments are making sure school children are receiving nutritious food.
- Teachers are going way beyond what they ever thought they would be called upon to do in educating our children.
- Our government is trickling out money to help those in need.
- So many of your people are doing all that they can, making masks and all kinds of protective equipment and giving them away.
- Our frontline heroes are using the skills and talents you gave them. Our nurses, doctors, police, firemen, letter carriers, trash collectors, and so many, many more are constantly stepping forward.

Isn't our "daily bread" also the need for love and laughter, the sound of the human voice, a good night's sleep? Perhaps even a good cry?

Your churches have found numerous ways to reach Your People, Lord, for Worship, for comfort, for fellowship, and to address needs.

***AND FORGIVE OUR DEBTS**

Father, Your People are really sorry for all we have done against Your Will.

- Not understanding other's points of view.
- Disobeying Your command to "Love One Another" - to love All others.
- Never saying we are sorry when that is all the other person is waiting to hear.
- Not opening our hearts to those who need us to do so.
- Being too busy when we know there is a need.
- Closing ourselves off when we know we should be opening up.
- Thinking negative thoughts about others when we have not walked in their shoes.
- Disrespecting others.
- Oh, so many more things.
- Forgetting to turn our troubles over to You.
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***AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS**

Lord, this part really scares your people.

We know that our sins are forgiven if we acknowledge Jesus as our Savior.

This Grace comes to us by a forgiveness that cost the life of Your Son.

THE LAMB OF GOD, WHO TAKES AWAY THE SINS OF THE WORLD

John 1:29

But this sounds like something more, on top of that.

Your people are confused.

We know Jesus gave His apostles this prayer before He died on the cross.

Is that why there is confusion?

Or is it something else?

It reads as if we are only forgiven if we forgive.

Looking at it objectively, it really doesn't sound like a loving Father.

Who have we not forgiven?

Why have we not forgiven?

Is it too late?

Can we make it right?

How far back do we have to go?

What if we can't remember?

Do Your People need to talk to You about this this because, as we are all children of God (You), then when we do a harm against someone, we are doing it against one of our siblings in Christ—one of Your Children.
Could it be that like us, God would like to be asked for His forgiveness even though it has already been given?

***AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION**

Your People ask, what kind of temptations are we talking about here?

Going to the store without a mask and gloves?

Saying things we know we shouldn't say?

Are You talking about things like picking up a gun?

Is it maybe things we know we shouldn't do but do anyway—like eating too much chocolate?

Your People can get very confused, Lord.

***BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL**

Ah, God, here is our world's present predicament.

There is a new kind of evil in our world.

We are waging war against it.

Our televisions are full of serious reports and scary statistics.

What do we do?

GOD'S SPIRIT WHO IS IN YOU, IS GREATER THAN THE DEVIL WHO IS IN THE WORLD.

1 John 4:4

RANDOM THOUGHTS ON COVID 19

From the relative safety of Irmo, SC

***DELIVER US FROM EVIL**

There was evil in the world, and the people were full of questions.

- How do we fight it?
- When will it go away?
- How much damage will it do?
- How can we go to get away from it?

Nowhere.

The evil is EVERYWHERE.

LORD, THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE ARE SICK WITH WORRY.

The whole world is afflicted—no one is spared.

We must rely on ourselves. What can we do?

BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD.

Psalms 46:10

And the people were still-

Their neighborhood was quiet.

The air did not stir.

What to do?

How long must Your People wait?

They ask: "Are our prayers not being heard?"

**LORD, LISTEN TO YOUR CHILDREN PRAYING.
LORD, SEND YOUR SPIRIT IN THIS PLACE.
LORD, LISTEN TO YOUR CHILDREN PRAYING,
SEND US LOVE, SEND US POWER, SEND US GRACE.**

PRAISE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY GHOST

***FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM**

Oh, You are the Kingdom.

How amazing is that!

So, if Thy will is done, then Thy Kingdom comes—and it's YOU!

How did we not realize that at the beginning of this prayer?

***AND THE POWER**

Your People pray that you will use Your Power to get rid of this evil Covid 19.

We come to You for strength.

Wait a minute, as You are always with us, just how are You, God, currently entering into, and affecting our lives?

Let me think here:

- Many TV advertisements that are usually trying to sell us something, are now giving encouragement and positive images. We are impressed.
- Scientists around the world are collaborating, sharing new discoveries and treatments.
- Retired healthcare workers are returning to hospitals to help with the heavy load of ill and dying patients.
- Your People are sharing stories and encouragement.
- There's now time for long ago family stories to be told and shared.
- School children are discovering the strength and abilities of their parents.
- Innovative ways are being used to produce television shows so we don't overload on the oldies.
- Great emails are coming in with terrific ideas.

Your People are finding wonderful ideas of things that can be done in quiet times:

- Our Bibles are being read.
- We've found old puzzles to work.
- We've unearthed wonderful books we finally have time to read.
- We've beautiful gardens to work in and enjoy.
- We've discovered quiet paths that are waiting for our footsteps.
- Some have dug-up old favorite recipes to use that take more time than we usually have.
- We've been given time to make telephone calls to old friends and really have a good chat.
- There are old picture albums to look through with family as we reminisce.
- There are relatives to check on, making sure they know we love them.
- Our personal files are being cleaned out/purged—sometimes enjoyed again.
- There is now an opportunity to contemplate family furniture, jewelry, and heirlooms—is there really anything anyone might want?
- All-star entertainers are sharing their talents (done remotely) in delightful programs—and, this time, not asking for money for a cause.
- There is even time now to review our wills and Powers-of-Attorney to make sure everything is still as we wish.
(Please note, God, not a thing was mentioned about house cleaning).

Oh, I see—On top of all the horror, it is a time of rest for some of Your People.

But God,

At what a price?

We know You are in charge, God. We'll never understand Your ways, but we know we must keep trying to accept them—giving You our trust and belief.

At least now we see how you make Yourself known among us. Our faith will grow as we wrestle with it and try to absorb what we are taught.

***AND THE GLORY**

Lord, Your People have the glory of knowing You and loving You and having You as our God. Your Glory will reign!

***FOREVER**

Until the end of time and beyond

***AMEN**

Thy will be done.

**HEAR OUR PRAYER, O LORD.
HEAR OUR PRAY, O LORD
INCLINE THINE EAR TO US,
AND GRANT US THY PEACE.**

J. Patricia Robosky

¹Max Lucado, *The Great House of God* (Word Publishing 1997).