Festooning the Lord's Prayer

Monk, preacher, and spiritual leader Francis of Assisi (1181-1226) prayed the Lord's Prayer, one phrase at a time, amplifying and expanding each phrase.[1] C. S. Lewis did the same thing, calling it "festooning," by which he meant decorating or embellishing phrases of scripture. These amplifications do not "obliterate the plain, public sense of the petition but are merely hung on it."[2]

EXERCISE: ***Pray each phrase of the Lord's Prayer, "festooning" and paraphrasing as the Spirit leads.*** Below are examples: first, the King James Version; second, from *The Divine Conspiracy*; third, an example of festooning.

Our Father who art in heaven

Dear Father always near us,
Our great Father who is in this place right now but also across the planet …

Hallowed by Thy name

May your name be treasured and loved.
May your name be my favorite word.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as is it in heaven

May your rule be completed in us—may your will be done here on earth in just the way it is done in heaven.
Let your kingdom live in me and in everyone I touch.

Give us this day our daily bread

Give us today the things we need today,
Give me the basic things I need today and receive them with great joy.

Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors

Forgive us our sins and impositions on you as we are forgiving all who in any way offend us.
Forgive us our sins and help us be so immersed in that so that we turn that forgiveness around to forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation,

Please don't put us through trials.
Save us from people and circumstances that are too difficult for us.

And deliver us from evil

But deliver us from everything bad.
Keep me out of harm's way, out of the way of evil influences.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Because you are the one in charge, and you have all the power, and the glory too is all yours—forever—which is just the way we want it! Whoopee!
We're so glad your kingdom is so powerful and glorious!

The purpose of this exercise is to help you increasingly live in the prayer Jesus prayed—and relate to the Father He revealed—by praying the ideas of the Lord's Prayer in your own words.

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[1] Keith Beasley-Topliffe, ed., *The Riches of Simplicity Selected Writings of Francis & Clare*: *Upper Room Spiritual Classics* (Nashville, TN: Upper Room Books, 1998), 34-35.
[2] C. S. Lewis, *Letters to Malcolm Chiefly on Prayer* (New York: Harcourt Brace and Company, 1964), 24.

Festooning the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as is it in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory for ever. Amen.

Thine is the **kingdom**, and the **power** and **glory** for ever

Revelation 4:11

“Worthy are you, · our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and because of your will they existed and were created.”

Revelation 5:12

saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive · power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and praise!”

Revelation 7:12

saying, “Amen! · Praise and · glory and · wisdom and · thanksgiving and · honor and · power and · might be to our God for all time! · Amen.”

Revelation 11:17

saying, “We give thanks to you, Lord · God · Almighty, who is and who was, because you have taken · your great power · and begun to reign.

Revelation 12:10

Then I heard a loud voice in · heaven saying, “Just now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ, because the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, the one who accuses them day and night before · our God.

Revelation 13:2

And the beast that I saw was like a leopard, · · his feet were like a bear’s, and · its mouth was like a lion’s mouth. And to the beast the dragon gave · his power and · his throne and great authority.

Revelation 17:12

And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who as yet have not received royal power, but will receive ruling authority as kings for one hour, along with the beast.

Revelation 18:3

For all the nations have drunk the wine of her passionate · immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed acts of immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her excessive luxury.”

Revelation 19:1

After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great throng in · heaven, saying, “Hallelujah! · Salvation and · glory and · power belong to our God,