

This year's advent devotionals feature readings from publications by Pittsburgh Theological Seminary faculty members. Today's reading comes from the book *The Lord's Prayer for Today* written by PTS President and Professor of Homiletics, William J. Carl III. It is published by Westminster John Knox Press. For information on ordering the book, visit www.Cokesbury.com.

Today's reading is found on page 5:

“As we enter a century shaken by 9/11 terrorism, wars and rumors of war, tsunamis and hurricanes, this little prayer continues to speak and “make sense” in our time. With postmodern, post-Christendom secularism on the one hand and radical fundamentalism and runaway global evangelism that sometimes ignores social justice on the other, the Jesus prayer patterns for us a way to avoid both narrow sectarianism and patriotic triumphalism. It lifts us beyond a saccharine “me and Jesus” religion that threatens to turn us in on ourselves in narcissistic navel gazing, the worst sort of hell one could ever imagine. It saves us from ourselves if we truly listen to it and heed its advice.

In the twenty-first century the Lord's Prayer, especially its second set of petitions, reminds us in a truly incarnational way of our responsibility for the world, the environment, and those who are helpless. Daniel Migliore puts it this way: “When spoken from the depths of our own need and in solidarity with the poor of the earth whose voices have long been silent, the Lord's Prayer proves to be a profoundly liberating prayer. Called to prayer, we are summoned not to passivity but to activity, . . . not to indifference about evil in and around us but to passion for justice, freedom, and peace in the whole creation.”

Prayer

As Jesus has taught us, let us pray: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, they will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.