

The Lord's Prayer: The First Petition

Hallowed be Thy name.

What does this mean?

God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.

How is God's name kept holy?

God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!

We learn from the **Catechism** that we pray this petition because we do not have the power to make God's name holy. His name is holy in and of itself. We do have the power to profane or dishonor His name. We do this when we teach falsehoods or live outside of the Word of God. Our prayer is that His name be kept holy in us. Notice, we are praying for help because we do not have the power to even keep His name holy within ourselves. He keeps His own name holy in us by guiding our lives. Help us, dear Father, to live according to Your Word that we may give You all the honor and glory. May Your name be kept holy by what we teach and how we live.