

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!

“Hallowed” means to make something holy. Do you know what it means to be holy? To be holy is to be set apart, to be different. The **Catechism** tells us that God's name is holy in itself, but we are praying in this petition that His name would be kept holy in us. We keep His name holy when we live according to His will. Part of this is how we use His name. Do you remember the Second Commandment? *You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.* We misuse His name when we *curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive in His name.* but we use it rightly, or keep it holy, when we *pray, praise, and give thanks.* Let us keep God's name holy in our lives.

Prayer:

Lord, help us to keep your name holy in our lives by using it rightly, to pray, praise, and give thanks. Amen.