

**The Lord's Prayer in Translation Transition** by *Lydia Huttar Brown*

The earliest manuscripts we have of The Lord's Prayer are in Greek. But it's likely that when Jesus taught his disciples to pray, he spoke to them in Aramaic. The gospel writers translated the remembered words into Greek, so more people in the known world could read and pray this beautiful prayer.

Translating prayers, and the Bible, and liturgy into the language people speak in their everyday interactions has always been a challenge for Christianity. People were executed for translating the Bible into the people's everyday language. Deciding to hold worship services in English, rather than Dutch, or German, or Swedish, led to schism and the creation of new denominations. At the very least, there is grief and loss when the forms of prayer and scripture that are so deeply a part of our spirituality are replaced with more modern words.

English Translation	Aramaic	Aramaic Pronunciation
Our Father in Heaven	אבותא ד שמיא	A-voon de-vesh-ma-ya
Hallowed Be Thy Name	קדשא ב שמיא	Niith-ka-dash smakh
Thy Kingdom Come	מלכותא ד שמיא	Tai-thai mal-koo-thakh
Thy Will Be Done	בשמיא	Neh-wey sev-ya-nakh
as in Heaven so on Earth	א כן	Ai-ken-na de-vesh-ma-ya
Give Us Bread for Our Needs	א פאן	Up ber-ah, hav-lan
from Day to Day	א פאן	Lakh-ma de-soon-ka-nan
Forgive Us Our Offenses, as We	א פאן	Yo-ma-na wush-vok-lan
Have Forgiven Our Offenders	א פאן	khoe-baine ai-ken-na de-up
Do Not Let Us Enter into	א פאן	khnan sh-vak-n el-kha-ya-ven
Temptation	א פאן	Ula ta-e-lun el-nis-yoe-na
Deliver Us from Evil	א פאן	Il-la pes-on min-bee-sha
For Thine Is the Kingdom	א פאן	Mit-thil de-de-lakh-ee
...and the Power	א פאן	Mal-koo-tha oo-khay-la
...and the Glory	א פאן	Oo-tish-boakh-ta
For Ever and Ever 'Amen'	א פאן	El-a-lum all-meen A-men

Although we have been using contemporary English for our worship, like many churches St. Anne's has continued with the Elizabethan Lord's Prayer. For one thing, this translation is well-known throughout the church, and almost everyone can join in from memory. Moreover, it is close to our hearts, an important part of our prayer life.

Another translation of Matthew 6:9-13, with added doxology

Therefore, this is how you shall pray:  
 Our heavenly Father, hallowed is your name.  
 Your Kingdom is come. Your will is done,  
 As in heaven so also on earth.  
 Give us the bread for our daily need.  
 And leave us serene,  
 just as we also allowed others serenity.  
 And do not pass us through trial,  
 except separate us from the evil one.  
 For yours is the Kingdom,  
 the Power and the Glory  
 To the end of the universe, of all the universes.  
 Amen!  
*from the website:*  
<http://www.v-a.com/bible/prayer.html>

However, we find ourselves in a time of linguistic transition. More and more churches are moving towards the 20<sup>th</sup> century translation found in our Book of Common Prayer. To help with bringing the Lord's Prayer into our vernacular, we will be using the contemporary translation periodically for a month or season at a time. Please pray it as though you have never prayed it before, and let your heart hear the words in a new way.

The above side-by-side of Aramaic and English is from the website:  
<http://www.christusrex.org/www1/pater/JPN-aramaic.html>  
 To hear The Lord's Prayer read in Aramaic, go to <http://www.v-a.com/bible/prayer.html>