



DOVER DAILY DEVOTIONS

On Sunday we listened to Jesus teach us to pray, and we noticed the order he gives us. Before we ask for bread, forgiveness, or protection, he puts one request first: “Hallowed be your name” (Matthew 6:9). We considered what it means for God’s name to be treated as holy, not casually handled but treasured, and how this reaches into our hearts, our life together as a church, and our witness in the world. Above all, we remembered that Jesus not only commands this prayer, he fulfills it, and he brings us to the Father by his finished work so that reverence can become joy rather than terror.

Monday: The First Desire

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 6:9

Devotional:

Most of us learn to pray where the pressure is. We feel the need, we feel the fear, and we speak first about what is heavy on us. Jesus does not scold that weakness, but he does re-order us. He teaches us to begin with God.

“Our Father in heaven” places us in two truths at once. In Christ, we are welcomed as children, not tolerated as intruders. And in that same Christ, we are brought before the Holy One who reigns over all, the King of heaven.

Then Jesus gives the first request: “Hallowed be your name.” This is the governing desire that steadies everything else we ask. When God’s honor becomes first, our other prayers find their proper shape and weight.

This is also a mercy, because it frees us from the exhausting project of making ourselves the center. Prayer begins with the Father’s glory, and that is good news for anxious hearts. The world does not rest on our shoulders. It rests on the Name above all names, and we are invited to draw near.

Reflection Questions:

1. When you pray, what usually comes first: God's honor or your urgent needs, and what does that reveal about your heart?
2. Where have you begun to treat God as useful rather than wonderful?
3. What would change this week if your first request each day was, "Father, hallowed be your name"?

Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, we confess how quickly we begin with ourselves. Re-order our desires by your Spirit, so that your glory becomes our first concern. Forgive us for casual thoughts of you and hurried prayers that forget who you are. Teach us to draw near through your Son with reverence and confidence. Hallow your name in us, we ask, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Tuesday: Holy, Not Handleable

Scripture Reading:

Leviticus 10:3

Devotional:

"Hallowed" is a strange word to modern ears, but the reality is not strange at all. It means set apart, treated as holy, revered as weighty and real. God is the living God.

Leviticus reminds us that the Lord will be treated as holy among those who draw near to him. That may sound severe until we remember what it protects. A casual God cannot save, cannot comfort, cannot judge evil, cannot keep promises. If God's holiness shrinks, everything else collapses with it.

When we pray, "Hallowed be your name," we are not asking God to become holy. He already is. We are asking that his holiness would be recognized, loved, and treasured, especially in the places where we have grown numb.

And here Christ is essential. Outside of him, holiness feels like threat only. In him, God's holiness becomes the bright backdrop of mercy, because the same holy God has made a way for sinners to come near without being consumed. The cross tells the truth about sin, and the cross opens the door to peace.

Reflection Questions:

1. Where have you grown casual about God, in worship, speech, or private habits?
2. What is one way you can treat God as holy today rather than as familiar background noise?
3. When God's holiness feels frightening, do you run from him or run to Christ?

Prayer:

Holy Father, you are not like us, and we have often forgotten that. Forgive us for speaking lightly of you and approaching you without awe. Thank you for sending your Son so that your holiness does not drive

us away but draws us near through his blood. Give us a fresh love for what is pure and a fresh hatred for what dishonors you. Hallow your name in our hearts, Lord. Amen.

Wednesday: The Name That Reveals the Heart

Scripture Reading:

Exodus 3:13–15

Devotional:

When the Lord revealed his name to Moses, he revealed his character. His name gathers up who he is, how he acts, and how he keeps covenant with his people.

“Hallowed be your name” means we are asking that God himself would be honored, his Word trusted, his works remembered, his promises believed, his warnings taken seriously, and his grace received with gladness.

This also exposes how easily we live with small thoughts of God. We may say “Lord” while quietly assuming he is limited, negotiable, or distant. But the God who names himself is the God who speaks and saves, the God who is present and faithful, the God who cannot be edited down to our comfort.

So we ask him to do what we cannot manufacture: to make himself the greatest and most beautiful reality in us. This is not self-improvement dressed up as prayer. It is dependence. It is a child asking the Father to show himself as he truly is.

1. What “small thought” about God has been shaping your week: that he is distant, harsh, indifferent, or manageable?
2. Where do you resist God’s Word because it crosses your will?
3. What promise of God do you need to trust more deeply right now?

Prayer:

Father, you have not hidden yourself from us, but we confess that we often ignore what you have revealed. Forgive us for trimming your majesty down to something we can control. Open our eyes to see your glory in your Word and in your works. Make your promises sweet to us and your warnings wise to us. Hallow your name in us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thursday: The Hidden Sanctuary of the Heart

Scripture Reading:

1 Peter 3:15

Devotional:

Peter tells us where hallowing begins: “In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy.” Before we talk about the world out there, we start with the world within. The first arena of reverence is the unseen life, what we do with God when no one is watching.

This is where the petition becomes very practical. It touches how we receive Scripture, how quickly we confess sin, and whether we bow when God’s will crosses ours or try to bargain our way around obedience. A heart that hallows Christ does not treat repentance as humiliation but as a return to sanity.

This is also where many of us feel our weakness. Our hearts wander. Our reverence cools. Our speech grows light. But the point of this prayer is not to impress God with our seriousness. It is to ask God to do what only he can do, to set Christ apart in us again by the Holy Spirit.

And because Christ has finished his work, we can face the truth about ourselves without despair. We do not confess sin to earn adoption. We confess because we have been brought into the Father’s house, and we do not want to drag mud across the floor of that mercy.

Reflection Questions:

1. Where in your private life do you treat Christ as optional rather than Lord?
2. When you sin, are you more grieved that God is dishonored or that you might be exposed?
3. What would it look like today to “honor Christ the Lord as holy” in one concrete decision or conversation?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, you are holy, and our hearts have often treated you lightly. Forgive us for divided loyalties and half-hearted obedience. By your Spirit, set yourself apart within us again as our highest treasure and true Lord. Give us quick repentance, honest confession, and renewed faith in your finished work. Keep us near the Father with reverence and joy. Amen.

Friday: A Name Over Our Conversations

Scripture Reading:

John 13:34–35

Devotional:

God joins his name to his people. That means the shared life of the church is never a private matter. When the church walks in love and truth, God's holiness is clarified. When the church slips into hypocrisy, cruelty, or quiet contempt, God's name is dragged through the mud.

Jesus says love for one another will mark us as his disciples. Love takes shape in patience, truthful speech, forgiveness, and a refusal to feed on gossip. The tongue can become a small match that burns down a whole fellowship, or it can become an altar where we offer God honor through careful words.

This is why repentance and restoration matter so much. A church that hides sin does not protect God's name, it profanes it. But a church that brings sin into the light, tells the truth, and runs together to the cross bears witness that God is holy and merciful, not indulgent and careless.

So pray this over the ordinary moments of church life: before a meeting, before a phone call, before a hard conversation, before you repeat a story. Father, let your name be hallowed among us. Make our life together a window, rather than a wall.

Reflection Questions:

1. Is there any relationship in the church where you have been nursing bitterness rather than seeking peace?
2. In the last week, have your words built up the body or quietly weakened it through suspicion, sarcasm, or gossip?
3. What is one step of humble honesty or reconciliation the Lord is calling you to take?

Prayer:

Father, you have placed your name upon your people, and we tremble at how easily we forget it. Forgive us for careless speech and cold hearts toward one another. Make our love sincere, our repentance honest, and our forgiveness quick. Guard this church from hypocrisy, and heal what is strained or fractured among us. Hallow your name in our life together through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Saturday: The Holy Name and the Crucified Christ

Scripture Reading:

Philippians 2:5-11

Devotional:

If “Hallowed be your name” were mainly a command resting on our shoulders, it would finally crush us. But Jesus does not merely teach this prayer. He lives it. He embodies the honor of the Father, and he carries God’s holy name into the darkest place, the cross.

In Christ’s death, holiness and mercy meet without compromise. God does not shrug at sin. God does not bargain with evil. God judges sin in the body of his Son, and in that same act he saves sinners at his own cost. The holy God becomes our Father through the finished work of the obedient Son.

Philippians tells us that God has exalted Jesus and given him the name above every name. One day every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, and that confession will be to the glory of God the Father. That is both a warning and an invitation.

The warning is plain: we cannot ignore God’s name forever. The invitation is sweeter: today, the holy God welcomes sinners to repent and believe, to be forgiven, to be adopted, to begin praying with clean lips and a new heart. The first step in hallowing God’s name is not trying harder. It is bowing to Christ, trusting him, and asking the Father to do in you what you cannot do for yourself.

Reflection Questions:

1. Do you relate to God’s holiness mainly as terror, and how does the cross reshape that fear?
2. Where do you need to repent today, not to earn God’s love, but because you have it in Christ?
3. If you had to name one area where God’s honor has been secondary in your life, what is it, and what would it look like to place Jesus first there?

Prayer:

Father, we praise you for exalting your Son, the true and perfect worshiper. Thank you that Jesus hallowed your name in his obedience and in his death for sinners like us. Forgive us for every way we have treated your glory lightly and preferred our own. Draw us again to the cross, and give us fresh faith in Christ’s finished work. Hallow your name in us, among us, and through us, until the day every knee bows to Jesus with joy. Amen.