

Understanding Episcopal Liturgy

#14. What is the reason we are using the traditional form of the Lord's Prayer?

At St. Paul's we alternate use of the traditional form of *The Lord's Prayer* and the more literal, contemporary form of *The Lord's Prayer*. This year, we are using the traditional form during 'Ordinary Time' (the season following Pentecost). The traditional form, provided as one of the two options in *The Book of Common Prayer (1979)*, is almost identical to the version of *The Lord's Prayer* used in the very first edition of *The Book of Common Prayer*, in 1549.

Our use of *The Lord's Prayer* is based on Matthew 6. A more literal translation is found in *The Book of Common Prayer* on page 364. The biggest difference between the actual text of the Bible and the old form of *The Lord's Prayer* is in verse 13 of Matthew. Verse 13 of Matthew reads *And do not bring us to the time of trial*, whereas the traditional form reads, *Lead us not into temptation*.

We will return to use of the contemporary form of *The Lord's Prayer* on December 1st, the first Sunday of Advent.