

The Lord's Prayer through English History

Anglo-Saxon/Old English

Fæder ure þu þe eart on heofonum;
Si þin nama gehalgod
to becume þin rice
gewurþe ðin willa
on eorðan swa swa on heofonum.
urne gedæghwamlican hlaf syle us todæg
and forgyf us ure gyltas
swa swa we forgyfað urum gyltendum
and ne gelæd þu us on costnunge
ac alys us of yfele soþlice
(note: the old english "þ" is pronounced "th")

from: [http://www.lords-prayer-words.com/
lord_old_english_medieval.html](http://www.lords-prayer-words.com/lord_old_english_medieval.html)

Translation of Old English Text

Father our thou that art in heavens
be thy name hallowed
come thy kingdom
be-done thy will
on earth as in heavens
our daily bread give us today
and forgive us our sins
as we forgive those-who-have-sinned-against-us
and not lead thou us into temptation
but deliver us from evil. Truly

from: [http://www.lords-prayer-words.com/
lord_old_english_medieval.html](http://www.lords-prayer-words.com/lord_old_english_medieval.html)

Early Middle English

Oure fadir that art in heuenes,
halewid be thi name;
thi kyngdoom come to;
be thi wille don, in erthe as in heuene.
Yyue to vs this dai oure breed ouer othir sub-
staunce,
and foryyue to vs oure dettis, as we foryyuen to
oure dettours;
and lede vs not in to temptacioun, but delyuere vs
fro yuel. Amen.

from: [http://www.lords-prayer-words.com/
lords_prayer_middle_english.html#ixzz3Xao3fOOor](http://www.lords-prayer-words.com/lords_prayer_middle_english.html#ixzz3Xao3fOOor)

Late Middle English

Our fadir that art in heuenes,
halwid be thi name.
Thi kyngdom cumme to.
Be thi wille don as in heuen and in erthe.
Gif to vs this day ouer breed oure other substances,
and forgeue to vs oure dettis
as we forgeue to oure dettours,
and leede vs nat in to temptacioun,
but delyuere vs fro yuel. Amen.

from: [http://humagaia.hubpages.com/hub/Lords-Prayer-
Through-The-Ages](http://humagaia.hubpages.com/hub/Lords-Prayer-Through-The-Ages)

Early Modern English

O oure father which art in heven,
halowed be thy name.
Let thy kingdom come.
Thy wyll be fulfilled, as well in eth
as hit ys in heven.
Geve vs this daye our dayly breade,
And forgeve vs oure treaspases
euen as we forgeve them which treaspas vs.
Leede vs not into temptation,
but delyvre vs from yvell. Amen.

This version of the Lord's Prayer in Late Middle English is from
Tyndale's Teastament of 1526.

Contemporary English Version

Our Father in heaven,
help us to honor your name.
Come and set up your kingdom,
so that everyone on earth will obey you,
as you are obeyed in heaven.
Give us our food for today.
Forgive us for doing wrong,
as we forgive others.
Keep us from being tempted
and protect us from evil.

from: [http://www.lords-prayer-
words.com/lord_contemporary_message_bible.html#good](http://www.lords-prayer-words.com/lord_contemporary_message_bible.html#good)

A Timeline for the History of the English Language

~10,000 BCE The last ice age ends.

~3500 BCE Proto-Indo-European (PIE) is spoken on the steppes around the Black and Caspian Seas.

~500 BCE Celts move into the British Isles.

~1000—500 BCE Proto-Germanic speaking people begin living in Northern Europe.

43-436 Britain comes under Roman rule.

~450 Settlement by the Angles, Saxons, Jutes, Frisians, and others.

~600 Anglo-Saxon (Old English) language covers most of modern-day England.

790s Viking raids begin.

878 The Danelaw is established.

871 Alfred the Great becomes king and promotes education and the English language.

1066 The Normans led by William the Conqueror (Bastard) invade England.

After 1066 Middle English evolves from the influence of French on Old English.

1476 William Caxton begins printing in England.

~1450 The Great Vowel Shift begins transforming Middle English into Early Modern English.

Late 1600s The English begin colonizing the Americas.

1500s-1800s Early Modern English is transformed into Modern English with influences from the Industrial Revolution and empire building.

1788 Noah Webster publishes *The American Spelling Book* furthering the divide between American and British

Today English has become a lingua franca for the world. It continues to change and adapt as it is used through new means of communication such as the Internet.