Praying Through Matthew

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In this reading, the phrases of the Lord’s Prayer (Matt 6.9–13) resound throughout the Gospel. As configured here, a narrator (N) words the phrases of the Lord’s Prayer and two other readers (1 and 2) read the echoes from elsewhere in Matthew.

1 ~ Our Father

N Our Father . . .
1 “Lord.”
2 “God.”
1 “Lord God.”
2 “Lord of heaven and earth.”
N, 1, 2 “God with us.”

2 ~ Who art in heaven

N Our Father, who art in heaven . . .
1 “Suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said,” (3.16–17)
N “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” (1.23)

3 ~ Hallowed be thy name

N Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
1 “Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.” (4.10)
N Hallowed be thy name.
1 “No one can serve two masters.”
N Hallowed be thy name.
2 “You cannot serve God and wealth.” (6.24)

4 ~ Thy kingdom come

N Thy kingdom come . . .
1 “Repent, for the kingdom of God has come near.” (3.2; 4.17)
N Thy kingdom come.
2 “Strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness.” (6.33)
N Thy kingdom come.
1 “Many will come from east and west and will eat with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.” (8.11)
N Thy kingdom come.
2 “Whoever becomes humble like a child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” (18.4)
N Thy kingdom come.
1 “This good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the world,
2 as a testimony to all the nations.” (24.14)

5 ~ Thy will be done

N Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
1 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven,
   but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.” (7.21)

N Thy will be done on earth.
2 “Bear fruit worthy of repentance.” (3.8)
1 “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” (4.19)
2 “Let your light shine before others.” (5.16)

N Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
1 “Everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them
   will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.” (7.24)
2 “It is not the will of my Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be
   lost.” (18.14)

6 ~ Give us this day our daily bread

N Give us this day our daily bread . . .
1 “Strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness,
   and all these things will be given to you as well.” (6.33)
2 “Ask and it will be given to you; search, and you will find;
   knock, and the door will be opened for you.
1 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much
   more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him?
   (7.7, 11)

N Give us this day . . .
2 “Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns,
   and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.” (6.28)
1 “If God so clothes the grass of the field, will he not much more clothe you? (6.30)

N Give us this day . . .
2 “Your Father who sees in secret will reward you.” (6.6)
1 “Your Father knows what you need before you ask him.” (6.8)

N Give us this day our daily bread.
2 “A person does not live by bread alone,
   but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” (4.4)
1 “For where your treasure is there will your heart be also.” (6.21)

7 ~ Forgive us our debts

N . . . and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors . . .
N Forgive us our debts,
2 “. . . your heavenly Father will also forgive you.” (6.14)
N as we forgive our debtors.
1 “For if you forgive others their trespasses . . .” (6.14)
N Forgive us our debts,
2 “. . . for they will receive mercy.” (5.7)
N as we forgive our debtors.
1 “Blessed are the merciful . . .” (5.7)
N Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
“In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you.” (7.12)
“How often should I forgive?” (18.21)
“Seventy times seven.” (18.22)

8 ~ Lead us not into temptation

“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
The tempter came and said to him, ‘Command that these stones become loaves of bread.’
But he answered, ‘A person does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’
‘Throw yourself down.’
‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’
‘Fall down and worship me.’
‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” (4.1–11)

9 ~ Deliver us from evil

“But deliver us from evil...

“First be reconciled to your brother or sister.” (5.24)
“If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away.” (5.29)
“Let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No’ be ‘No.’ Any more than this leads to evil.” (5.37)
“Do not resist an evildoer.”
“Turn the other cheek.”
“Give your cloak as well.”
“Give and do not refuse.” (5.38–42)
“Love your enemies.” (5.44)

10 ~ For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever

“For thine is the kingdom...

“Your kingdom come.” (6.10)

... and the power...

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.” (28.18)

... and the glory...

“Give glory to your Father in heaven.” (5.16)

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever,
Amen.