Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil

We conclude the Lord's Prayer with "but deliver us from evil." Immediately after, the priest amplifies and builds on this petition.

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.



This not a new prayer, it is very ancient. It can be found in Greek Eastern liturgies as well as Latin Western liturgies so it probably dates from back before the 600s. Two texts from Scripture have influenced this prayer:

John 17:15 – Jesus is praying to his Father, this begins with: When he had said this, he raised his eyes to heaven and said… "Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you, I do not ask that you take them out of the world but that you keep them from the evil one."

Titus 2:11-14 – For the grace of God has appeared, saving all and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope, the appearance* of the glory of the great God and of our savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to deliver us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people as his own, eager to do what is good.

This prayer touches each of us personally, but it is always we who pray, in communion with the whole Church, for the deliverance of the whole human family. The Lord's Prayer continually opens us to the range of God's economy of salvation. Our interdependence in the drama of sin and death is turned into solidarity in the Body of Christ, the "communion of saints."

In this petition, evil is not an abstraction, but refers to a person, Satan, the Evil One, the angel who opposes God. The devil (*dia-bolos*) is the one who "throws himself across" God's plan and his work of salvation accomplished in Christ. When we ask to be delivered from the Evil One, we pray as well to be freed from all evils, present, past, and future, of which he is the author or instigator. In this final petition, the Church brings before the Father all the distress of the world. Along with deliverance from the evils that overwhelm humanity, she implores the precious gift of peace and the grace of perseverance in expectation of Christ's return.

Through Satan, sin and death entered the world and by his definitive defeat all creation will be "freed from the corruption of sin and death."

Victory over the "prince of this world" was won once for all at the Hour when Jesus freely gave himself up to death to give us his life. This is the judgment of this world, and the prince of this world is "cast out."

Sources: Catechism of the Catholic Church; https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/catechism/index.cfm?recnum=7219