

Thy Kingdom Come!

Sermon Series on the Lord's Prayer

Luke 13:18-21 2 Samuel 7:8-16 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

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Pastor Dave Bolte



When you think of the *Kingdom of God*, one of your first thoughts is probably that **Jesus is the King** of the *Kingdom of God*. And rightly so, because Jesus is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. He fulfills the prophecies given to King David that one of his descendants will have an eternal Kingdom that shall never end. And of course, on the cross, Jesus suffered and died under a sign that said “*Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.*”¹

But now in the Lord's Prayer, you have to switch your thinking a little bit. In the Lord's Prayer, the prayer that Jesus gives us, we are addressing God the Father as King! We are asking that **His Kingdom Comes!** We are asking Him to work in our lives as our King.

Here is how the Small Catechism teaches us to think about the Kingdom of God:

Thy Kingdom come.

What does this mean?

The Kingdom of God certainly comes of itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.

How does God's kingdom come?

The kingdom of God comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His Holy Word and live godly lives here in time and hereafter in eternity.

¹ In John 19, when Jesus is questioned by Pontius Pilate, almost the entire conversation is about Jesus as King! The conversation culminates when Pilate writes the “titulus” for the cross that says “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews” --- and he writes it in three languages (John 19:19-20)!

In the Lord's Prayer, **the King is God the Father**, and we are asking that His Kingdom *rules and reigns* in the world and in our own lives.

The image of a King highlights His **POWER AND AUTHORITY**. God the Father has full *power and authority over all things*. In the "Kingdom of Power"², God works through all world events for the good of His people. History is really "His-story". Nothing is random or out of control. God, our Father and King, is making the events of the world ultimately benefit the Holy Christian Church as He works to make disciples in all nations. A Day is coming, and will soon be here, when the King's work will be finished in this world; and His **eternal** Kingdom will come. Jesus has promised us that He will return on the Last Day; and only God the Father knows when that Day will be. As Christians, we may be disgusted by the things that we hear about in the world; and the Signs of the End may trouble us and cause some anxiety within us; but we do not lose hope nor fall into fear, panic, or despair. *We know that God is working through all the evil and brokenness for the good of His people.* That's His Promise ... and that's what we pray for in the Lord's Prayer: **Thy Kingdom Come!**

On a personal level, that means that God, your Father and King, is making all things work for good in your personal life as well. Nothing that happens to you is random or out of control. The King is using His mighty *power and authority* so that all the events of your life -- even those things that you can't understand and those things that are painful -- all things are made to work for your good and for your benefit. That's His Promise ... and that's what we pray for in the Lord's Prayer: **Thy Kingdom Come!**

The image of a King highlights His **POWER AND AUTHORITY**. God, our Father and King, has full *power and authority* over all things; and He uses His *power and authority* graciously *in your life*.

² This is a technical term in theology: you may remember that God's Kingdom can be thought of in three ways: The Kingdom of Power (in the world), the Kingdom of Grace (in the Church), and the Kingdom of Heaven (in eternity). ALMOST ALWAYS the Son of God is pictured as the King; here in the Lord's Prayer however, the Father is pictured as the King. All three Persons of the Godhead share in the work of salvation, including Kingship. The Holy Spirit is pictured at the Throne (= Kingly image) of God for instance in Rev 4:5 as the "7 Spirits of God" (a reference to the Holy Spirit based on the seven gifts listed in Isaiah 11:2-3).

The clearest place to see the *power and authority* of God, our Father and King, is in His Son Jesus. The King sent His Son to be your Savior. The King allowed this evil, broken, and corrupt world to crucify His Only Begotten Son. But nothing was random or out of control. In Jesus' crucifixion, your sins were paid for and you were rescued from death. Graciously, God accepts you as He forgives your sins, grants you peace, reconciles with you, and gives you eternal life. *The role of God, our Father and King, in salvation is that He sent His Only Begotten Son because He loves you and cares about you.*

One of the most interesting things about the Kingdom of God is that it is humble and hidden in plain sight. God, our Father and King, works His gracious *power and authority* in the **VERY SIMPLE THINGS** of **water, bread, wine, and words**. Through these simple things, God, our Father and King, uses His *power and authority* to set people free and to bring them into His Kingdom.

† In **Holy Baptism**, God, our Father and King, uses simple water to wash away sins and to give eternal life. In Baptism, He adopts you into His family so that you know Him as your Father in Heaven³.

† In **Holy Communion**, God, our Father and King, uses simple bread and wine to give you the very body and blood of His crucified and risen Son, Jesus Christ. This is no mere remembrance nor is it just a warm fuzzy in your heart. This is Christ's body and blood, given and shed for you for the forgiveness of your sins. In Holy Communion, not only are your sins forgiven; but you are given eternal life, the hope of the resurrection of the dead, and God abides within you. God the Father makes His home within you so that you can hallow His Name as you live in this world.

† Another simple way that God works is through the **Word of God**. Through Scripture, God, our Father and King, sets you free from the power of sin and sanctifies you for holy living. You are empowered to live a life of godliness, peace, and hope.

³ If you or your family have not been Baptized, then let's talk ASAP. Don't delay! Let's meet and get it scheduled! Baptism is a command of Christ, but more importantly, it is a Means of Grace where God puts His Name on you, cleanses your conscience, forgives your sins, and gives you eternal life!

The **Christian faith and life** is what Martin Luther focuses on when he teaches “**Thy Kingdom Come**” in the Small Catechism.

The Kingdom of God comes when our **Heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit**, so that by His grace we believe His Holy Word and live Godly lives **here in time** and **hereafter in eternity**.

If you **believe** in the Lord Jesus Christ, then God's Kingdom is **already present and at work** in your life. God the Father has given you His Holy Spirit, and He has created faith in Jesus. That same Holy Spirit works through the Word of God so that you live each day in holiness and godliness.

- † Holiness is **a life of love**: loving God and serving your neighbor.
- † Holiness is **a life of repentance**: living with an attitude of hating sin, confessing it to God, and being assured of His love and forgiveness in Christ.
- † Holiness is **hallowing His Name**, as you call upon Him in every trouble, pray, praise and give thanks.
- † Holiness is **walking in the Spirit**; bearing the fruit of the Spirit and having nothing to do with the works of the flesh.

By the grace of God, you believe His Holy Word and live a Godly life here in time and thereafter in eternity.

Thy Kingdom Come!

What a joy to know the King as your Father in Heaven;
and that He loves you so much!

Amen!

God the Father,
we acknowledge you to be our King,
and pray that your Kingdom comes in this
world and in our lives.

We ask that you use your power and
authority for the good of the One, Holy,
Christian, and Apostolic Church.

And Father, we ask that you use Your
gracious power and authority in our lives,
to continually forgive our sins,
to continually give Your Holy Spirit,
and to continually guide us in our Christian
faith and life.

For we know that without You we are
nothing.

We pray this trusting in Your Son Jesus as
our savior,
and thanking you for the gift of the Holy
Spirit. AMEN.

2 Samuel 7:8-16

"Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over my people Israel. 9 I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men of the earth. 10 And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning 11 and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies. " 'The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: 12 When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men. 15 But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.' "

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God

Luke 13:18-21

Then Jesus asked, "What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? 19It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air perched in its branches." 20 Again he asked, "What shall I compare the kingdom of God to? 21It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough."