

The Second Petition

Thy Kingdom come.

What does this mean? The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come among us also.

How does God's kingdom come? God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.

Devotion

"After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 'The time has come,' he said. 'The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!'" (Mark 1:14-15).

In the name of Jesus. Amen. A child was asked, "What is the Kingdom of God?"

"Where the King is!" the child exclaimed. How true! There is no "kingdom" without a "king." And if we are looking for the "kingdom of God," we are looking for where King Jesus is!

Jesus is our king. He is a king like no other. His crown is not gold, but a crown of thorns. He saves His people who reject Him – not by conquering them, but by dying on the Cross for them. He dies not just for His people, but for all people. We are saved by His death. We are raised to new life in His resurrection.

We don't make His kingdom come. King Jesus' kingdom comes all by itself. In this petition we pray that He would make His Cross-won-forgiveness come to us in the Word and Sacraments.

Then, bearing His holy name and having been forgiven of all our sins, we live under Him in His kingdom. He is our king. We as His people. That is how we live in His kingdom - leading a holy life here in this time and hereafter in eternity.

Thy Kingdom come among us also, Jesus. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Discussion

When Jesus showed up on the scene, He announced that the Kingdom of God was “near.” God was going to be with His people. In John, chapter 3, Nicodemus goes to see Jesus at night. Read and discuss John 3:1-21.

1. Why do you think that Nicodemus came to see Jesus at night?
2. What does Jesus say about the kingdom of God?
3. How does one see the kingdom of God? How does one enter into the kingdom of God?
4. What does Jesus mean by “water and the Spirit”? (John 3:5, Titus 3:4-7)
5. Read the story of Moses and the bronze serpent (Num 21:1-9). What happened when someone looked at the serpent? What was the means that God saved his people from the snakes?
6. Jesus mentions being “lifted up.” (John 3:14, 12:32) What is He talking about?
7. Consider King Jesus on the Cross. (John 19:14-22)
8. What is the kingdom of God? (2 Timothy 4:18)
9. When Jesus was lifted up on the cross, He won eternal life to all who believe in Him. From the cross, He draws all men to Himself. Since we are justified by His grace and believe the Gospel, why do we pray for His kingdom to come? (Philippians 3:20-1, Revelation 22:20)
10. Take a moment and think about how kings normally rule. How is Jesus' kingdom different? (Matthew 20:25-6)
11. What is the Kingdom of Jesus about? (Romans 14:17)
12. How do we await the coming of our King? (Matthew 6:33, 1 Peter 2:12)
13. Consider again the meaning of the Second Petition. How does God's kingdom come to you and me.
14. What does this petition tell you about prayer?
15. Could we pray this petition without the Cross of Christ?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we begin the Lord’s Prayer by praying that you would remove all from us that would hinder Your kingdom from coming among us. Bring your kingdom come among us, forgive us our sins, and lead us and those around us into eternal life through your Son’s death and resurrection. In His Name. Amen.

The Second Petition

The Small Catechism

Thy kingdom come.

What does this mean?--Answer.

The kingdom of God comes indeed without our prayer, of itself; but we pray in this petition that it may come unto us also.

How is this done?--Answer.

When our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead a godly life here in time and yonder in eternity.

The Large Catechism

Thy kingdom come.

49] As we prayed in the First Petition concerning the honor and name of God that He would prevent the world from adorning its lies and wickedness with it, but cause it to be esteemed sublime and holy both in doctrine and life, so that He may be praised and magnified in us, so here we pray that His kingdom also may come. **50]** But just as the name of God is in itself holy, and we pray nevertheless that it be holy among us, so also His kingdom comes of itself, without our prayer, yet we pray nevertheless that it may come to us, that is, prevail among us and with us, so that we may be a part of those among whom His name is hallowed and His kingdom prospers.

51] But what is the kingdom of God? Answer: Nothing else than what we learned in the Creed, that God sent His Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, into the world to redeem and deliver us from the power of the devil, and to bring us to Himself, and to govern us as a King of righteousness, life, and salvation against sin, death, and an evil conscience, for which end He has also bestowed His Holy Ghost, who is to bring these things home to us by His holy Word, and to illumine and strengthen us in the faith by His power.

52] Therefore we pray here in the first place that this may become effective with us, and that His name be so praised through the holy Word of God and a Christian life that both we who have accepted it may abide and daily grow therein, and that it may gain approbation and adherence among other people and proceed with power throughout the world, that many may find entrance into the Kingdom of Grace, be made partakers of redemption, being led thereto by the Holy Ghost, in order that thus we may all together remain forever in the one kingdom now begun.

53] For the coming of God's Kingdom to us occurs in two ways; first, here in time through the Word and faith; and secondly, in eternity forever through revelation. Now we pray for both these things, that it may come to those who are not yet in it, and, by daily increase, to us who have received the same, and hereafter in eternal life. **54]** All this is nothing else than saying: Dear Father, we pray, give us first Thy Word, that the Gospel be

preached properly throughout the world; and secondly, that it be received in faith, and work and live in us, so that through the Word and the power of the Holy Ghost Thy kingdom may prevail among us, and the kingdom of the devil be put down, that he may have no right or power over us, until at last it shall be utterly destroyed, and sin, death, and hell shall be exterminated, that we may live forever in perfect righteousness and blessedness.

55] From this you perceive that we pray here not for a crust of bread or a temporal, perishable good, but for an eternal inestimable treasure and everything that God Himself possesses; which is far too great for any human heart to think of desiring if He had not Himself commanded us to pray for the same. **56]** But because He is God, He also claims the honor of giving much more and more abundantly than any one can comprehend,—like an eternal, unfailing fountain, which, the more it pours forth and overflows, the more it continues to give,—and He desires nothing more earnestly of us than that we ask much and great things of Him, and again is angry if we do not ask and pray confidently.

57] For just as when the richest and most mighty emperor would bid a poor beggar ask whatever he might desire, and were ready to give great imperial presents, and the fool would beg only for a dish of gruel, he would be rightly considered a rogue and a scoundrel, who treated the command of his imperial majesty as a jest and sport, and was not worthy of coming into his presence: so also it is a great reproach and dishonor to God if we, to whom He offers and pledges so many unspeakable treasures, despise the same, or have not the confidence to receive them, but scarcely venture to pray for a piece of bread.

58] All this is the fault of the shameful unbelief which does not look to God for as much good as will satisfy the stomach, much less expects without doubt such eternal treasures of God. Therefore we must strengthen ourselves against it, and let this be our first prayer; then, indeed, we shall have all else in abundance, as Christ teaches [Matt. 6, 33]: *Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.* For how could He allow us to suffer want and to be straitened in temporal things when He promises that which is eternal and imperishable?