

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

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February 24, 2021

7:00 PM

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

"Blest Are They"

ELW 728

1 **Blest are they, the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow;
they shall be consoled.**

Refrain

**Rejoice and be glad!
Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kingdom of God!**

2 **Blest are they, the lowly ones;
they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they who hunger and thirst;
they shall have their fill. *Refrain***

3 **Blest are they who show mercy;
mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart;
they shall see God. *Refrain***

4 **Blest are they who seek peace;
they are the children of God.
Blest are they who suffer in faith;
the glory of God is theirs. *Refrain***

5 **Blest are you who suffer hate,
all because of me.
Rejoice, be glad, yours is the kingdom;
shine for all to see. *Refrain***

text: David Haas, b. 1957

P In the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
G Amen.

P Loving God, we remember that Jesus teaches us to pray saying, "Our Father ..."

G You created us, you made this world, and you called your creation very good.
Yet often we forget that you are our loving Parent who continues to bless your world.

- Ⓟ Jesus told us that you are "... in heaven ..."
- Ⓞ **Yet we fail to live in awe of you. We take you for granted, and we don't see the awesome beauty of the world you have made.**

- Ⓟ We pray, "Hallowed be thy name ..."
- Ⓞ **We confess that our reverence for you does not always lead us to care reverently for your earth, sky and sea.**
- Ⓟ We pray, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven ..."
- Ⓞ **We confess that we often put our own interests first — exploiting your creation, and living for our own convenience and self-interest.**

- Ⓟ We pray, "Give us this our daily bread."
- Ⓞ **We confess that we consume more than our share of the world's resources, while billions go hungry every day and your whole creation suffers.**

- Ⓟ We pray, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."
- Ⓞ **We confess that we see these words only in spiritual terms, while the Bible is filled with teachings about economic justice and creation care.**

- Ⓟ We pray, "Lead us not into temptation."
- Ⓞ **Help us to resist the temptations of spending more, using more, acquiring more, and wasting more.**

- Ⓟ We pray, "But deliver us from evil."
- Ⓞ **Free us from greed and self-centeredness that separate us**

- Ⓟ We pray, "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever."
- Ⓞ **Help us to know that in caring for your wonderful world, we are working for your kingdom, being good stewards of your creative power, and giving you glory.**

- Ⓟ We pray, "Amen."
- Ⓞ **We end our prayers with "Amen," a word that means "let it be so." We know that only by your grace alone can we be faithful disciples. Amen!**

☐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

☑ **Our Father in heaven,**

Reveal who you are.

Set the world right;

Do what's best— as above, so below.

Keep us alive with three square meals.

Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others.

Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil.

You're in charge!

You can do anything you want!

You're ablaze in beauty! Yes. Yes. Yes

From *The Message* Matthe 6:9-13 ©1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002 by Eugene H. Peterson

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³*"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

⁴*"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*

⁵*"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.*

⁶*"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.*

⁷*"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.*

⁸*"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.*

⁹*"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.*

¹⁰*"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

¹¹*"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."*

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

FROM MARTIN LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM (1529)

P In the Second Petition of the Lord's Prayer we pray:

C *"Thy kingdom come."*

P What does this mean? Answer:

C **"To be sure, the kingdom of God comes of itself, without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may also come to us.**

P How is this done? Answer:

C **When the heavenly Father gives us his Holy Spirit so that by his grace we may believe his holy Word and live a godly life, both here in time and hereafter forever.**

P In the Third Petition of the Lord's Prayer we pray:

C *"Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."*

P What does this mean? Answer:

C **To be sure, the good and gracious will of God is done without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may also be done by us.**

P How is this done? Answer:

C **When God curbs and destroys every evil counsel and purpose of the devil, of the world, and of our flesh which would hinder us from hallowing his name and prevent the coming of his kingdom, and when he strengthens us and keeps us steadfast in his Word and in faith even to the end. This is his good and gracious will.**

SERMON

Pastor Duminy

- 1 **Your kingdom come! O Father, hear our prayer;
shine through the clouds that threaten ev’rywhere;
light from above, our only life and joy,
show us the hope that nothing can destroy;
show us the hope that nothing can destroy.**

- 2 **Stumbling and blind, we strive to do your will,
trusting the word you surely will fulfill,
that all are yours, however far they roam,
that love shall triumph, and your kingdom come;
that love shall triumph, and your kingdom come.**

- 3 **Come through the faith whereby the church must live;
come through the word and sacraments you give;
come through your teaching, and your healing too;
come through the work enlightened hearts can do;
come through the work enlightened hearts can do.**

- 4 **Your kingdom come; come too, God’s glorious Son!
Oh, may our task for you be nobly done!
Faithful let all your servants be, and true,
until they bring all nations home to you;
until they bring all nations home to you.**

Text: Margaret R. Seebach, 1875-1948, alt.

CLOSING PRAYERS

- ☐ Almighty God,
- ☑ **you have called us, your servants, to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

- ☐ We give thanks to you, heavenly Father,
- ☑ **through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have graciously protected us today. We ask you to forgive us all our sins, where we have done wrong, and graciously to protect us tonight. Into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels be with us, so that the wicked foe may have no power over us. Amen.**

P We are again bold enough to pray as our Lord taught us:

G **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

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

P Let us bless the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

P Almighty God, the Father, ✠ the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

G **Amen.**

HYMN

“The Day You Gave Us, Lord, Has Ended”

ELW 569

1 The day you gave us, Lord, has ended;
the darkness falls at your behest.
To you our morning hymns ascended;
your praise shall hallow now our rest.

3 As to each continent and island
the dawn leads on another day,
the voice of prayer is never silent,
nor dies the strain of praise away.

2 We thank you that your church, unsleeping
while earth rolls onward into light,
through all the world its watch is keeping,
and never rests by day or night.

4 The sun, here having set, is waking
your children under western skies,
and hour by hour, as day is breaking,
fresh hymns of thankful praise arise.

5 So be it, Lord; your realm shall never,
like earth's proud empires, pass away;
but stand and grow and rule forever,
till all your creatures own your sway.

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

✠ ✠ ✠

Spending Time (again!) with an Old Friend
Wednesdays, 7:00 PM
In-Person (please register by noon on Tuesday)
Live-Stream



Last year our midweek Lenten Worship was to give us an opportunity to visit an old friend: The Lord's Prayer. That was cut short by the pandemic. So again each week we will reflect on various petitions(s) of this great prayer gaining insights from Martin Luther's Small Catechism. The Pastors are looking forward to this special time and encourage you to come (or live-stream) and hopefully gain a new perspective and a new appreciation for the prayer we say most often.

Our Schedule will be as follows:

Wednesday, March 3

The Fourth Petition

"Give us this day our daily bread."

Wednesday, March 10

The Fifth Petition

"And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."

Wednesday, March 17

The Sixth Petition

"And lead us not into temptation."

Wednesday, March 24

The Seventh Petition and the Conclusion

"But deliver us from evil. Amen."

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