

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

➤ ***Don't be afraid***

Call to Worship

We gather today to draw wisdom and courage from the One whose life and death and resurrection give us hope. In this time of worship, we draw together to wrestle God in prayer, as Jesus taught.

Prayer

On this day we step boldly – humbly – into your presence O God, praying with our suffering Saviour as he taught us to pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

With voices around the world, we call: *May your kingdom come!*

...to those who are hungry, those who are weeping, those who are despairing, those who suffer in war, those who have waited centuries for a truly human life.

Grant us hope that will strengthen our resolve to work for justice in this world, despite its many conflicts, threats, and shortcomings.

We acknowledge that much is broken, and yet we believe in working for renewal, for justice and peace.

May the earth shine in its beauty, in its ability to heal. May we see possibilities before us and be granted vision... that we may boldly add our voices to a story unfolding through history: the coming of God's kingdom.

Grant us courage to do your will – at all times, in all places, for all people. May your kingdom come like a spring rain, like streams running to rivers.

We confess, O God, that our fears and our insecurities, our pride and our stubbornness lead us away from your kingdom. We fail to see the beauty and the complexity of your world... the people, cultures, languages, geographies that you have woven together.

Give us open eyes to see the world as it is and to see ourselves as we are. Give us hope to continue believing in what you intend us all to be.

We come to you, bowed by the evidence of earth torn and heaven scorned. Encircle us and our world with your healing. Extend to us your mercy, assure us of your forgiveness, and give us the courage to call your kingdom near... *On earth as it is in heaven!*

We are your family, your image on earth, friends, siblings – one community with Christ as our center.

We know that your way to salvation has been revealed in Jesus Christ. Through his life, death and resurrection our sins are forgiven – forgiveness, healing, and wholeness are ours.

Thanks be to God! Amen

➤ ***O God, our Father in heaven [verses 1 - 2] 789***

Scripture **Matthew 13: 44-53**

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Have you understood all this?"

They answered, "Yes."

And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

When Jesus had finished these parables, he left that place.

Matthew 20: 20-28

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favor of him. And he said to her, "What do you want?"

She said to him, "Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom."

But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?"

They said to him, "We are able."

He said to them, "You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father."

When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Luke 17: 20-21

Once Jesus was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was coming, and he answered, "The kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed; nor will they say, '*Look, here it is!*' or '*There it is!*' For, in fact, the kingdom of God is among you."

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Message *(sent as a separate file)*

➤ ***Seek ye first***

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† Prayer

We give you thanks today, O Lord, for caring for the smallest and the least – help us to care for one another and for your world. Cast out any fear that we have – any sense of inadequacy – any temptation to despair. Give us the courage, the faith, the discipline, the trust, and the love we need to offer the gifts that we have for your work in the world...

We pray, O God, for all who are in need – those who are sick and require tender care – those who are hungry and require outstretched hands, our sharing of what we have...

We pray for those who are oppressed and require our courage and passion for justice – sharing the truth about your kingdom and your righteousness with the powerful.

We pray for those who suffer in mind, spirit and soul and require our prayer – our faith – our witness. Bless all who are in need this day, O God – those whom we hold before you in silence and those that you continue to bring to our hearts and minds daily...

We offer these prayers through your living and eternal word, Jesus the Christ. **Amen**

➤ ***Be Thou my vision***

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Blessing

Go with faith, hope, and love, knowing that God hears our petitions. Let us recommit ourselves to working diligently for God's creation – for the people living near us – for those suffering around the world. May we never tire of working and praying for God's kingdom to unfold in all its glory. And may God's will be done as the grace of the risen Christ – the love of God – and the nurturing community of the Spirit embrace us all. **Amen**

➤ ***Praise God from whom all blessings flow***

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