

**Congregation at Prayer**  
**✠ Fourth Sunday of Easter ✠**

*A Guide for Daily Family Prayer  
For the Week of May 12<sup>th</sup> to May 18<sup>th</sup>*

Catechesis Notes for the Week...

*[Taken from Luther's Large Catechism, which is in our Book of Concord, Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions.]*

**The Second Petition:** 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.

**Responsive Prayer 2, Lutheran Service Book p.285**

Learn-By-Heart Scripture...

**Numbers 6:24-27**

*The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. "So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them."*

Learn-By-Heart Catechism...

**The Lord's Prayer**

**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 to 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.

**Third Petition: Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

*What does this mean?*

The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

*How is God's will done?*

God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.<sup>2</sup>

Daily Readings...

*Monday (5/12):* Leviticus 9:1-24; Luke 9:18-36

*Tuesday (5/13):* Leviticus 10:1-20; Luke 9:37-62

*Wednesday (5/14):* Leviticus 16:1-24; Luke 10:1-22

*Thursday (5/15):* Leviticus 17:1-16; Luke 10:23-42

*Friday (5/16):* Leviticus 18:1-7, 20-19:8; Luke 11:1-13

*Saturday (5/17):* Leviticus 19:9-18, 26-37; Luke 11:14-36

*Sunday (5/18):* Leviticus 20:1-16, 22-27; Luke 11:37-54

Prayer of the Week...

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Psalms of the Week...

**Psalm 95**

Hymn of the Week... "Awake, My Heart, with Gladness"

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Looking Forward to Next Week...

*Fifth Sunday of Easter ~ Acts 6:1-9, 7:2a, 51-60      1 Peter 2:2-10      John 14:1-14*