

Christ Lutheran Church

127 N. Spring St., Klamath Falls, OR 97601

(541) 884-1635 www.lutherankf.org

July 2019

Imagine you are on a ship that springs a leak and sinks. There you are, along with many others, desperately stranded in deep water. When a rescue ship comes, what is your wish? Of course, you want yourself to be saved. But you also want others to be brought aboard the rescue ship – family, friends, and others around you. Finally, you want the ship and everyone safely to reach the home harbor.

It is similar when we pray: *"Our Father, who art in heaven... Thy kingdom come."* We are praying for God's salvation to come to us and to others. We are praying that He would bring us into His Kingdom of Grace through faith in Jesus. And we are praying that He would at last bring us all to safe harbor in His Kingdom of Glory.

Before we ever prayed this petition, God was already coming with His Kingdom and salvation. He saw our predicament as sinners, hopelessly stranded and sinking under the weight of our sins into the abyss of eternal death. In love, He sent His Son on a rescue mission, to die on the cross under the burden of our sin. Then He raised His Son from the dead, declaring us forgiven, counting us righteous for Jesus' sake.

God brought us personally into His Kingdom of Grace when He applied His Gospel of salvation in Jesus to us, and sent His Spirit into our hearts to work faith in us. Through the waters of Baptism, God raised us out of sin and death, to live a new life in Christ (Romans 6). *"He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins"* (Colossians 1:13-14).

So as we pray *"Thy kingdom come,"* we rejoice that God has brought us out of Satan's kingdom and into His Kingdom of Grace. He has pulled us safely

aboard His rescue ship, the Ark of His Church. We pray that He would continue to bring His Kingdom of Grace and salvation to us through Word and Sacrament, applying His forgiveness, keeping us in faith until He brings us to His Kingdom of Glory.

The Lord's Prayer: Second Petition

"Thy kingdom come."

Catechism Explanation:

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.

But as we pray *"Thy kingdom come,"* we are also thinking of others. It is a mission prayer. There are many around us who are still stranded and sinking under the weight of sin *"without Christ... and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world"* (Ephesians 2:12). Lest they sink into the abyss forever, we pray that God's Kingdom of Grace may come to them also through faith in Jesus. For God's promise is extended to all: *"He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned"* (Mark 16:16).

Thus, in this petition we are praying that God's Spirit would bless the work of His Church at large, that His Gospel of salvation in Christ may be preached faithfully and without hindrance to the ends of the earth. We are asking God to work through us personally, that we may support the work of the Gospel through the gifts He gives us, and that through our words and deeds we may bear witness to fellow sinners of God's salvation in Christ. To the end that many more may be brought into His Kingdom of Grace, rescued from sin, brought safely aboard the ship; until at last, together, we shall arrive home in safe harbor in God's heavenly Kingdom of Glory.

Thy kingdom come! Thine let it be
In time and through eternity!

O let Thy Holy Spirit dwell
With us, to rule and guide us well;
From Satan's mighty pow'r and rage
Preserve thy Church from age to age. Amen.
(Hymn: *"Our Father, Thou in Heaven Above"*)

Pastor Smith

Find Answers to Questions on the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Website @ <https://els.org/>

Under the “Resources” tab, you can find many Questions and Answers, listed alphabetically, such as:

Abortion, Rape and Incest

Q: *What is our ELS statement on abortion? How do we stand in cases of rape and incest?”*

A: The statement to which you are referring is located in the 1978 *Synod Report* (p. 63). Since there may be others, too, who are not aware of the precise wording, we include the entire resolution:

WHEREAS, the Scriptures teach that human life begins at conception (Matt. 1:20, Ps. 51:5, Ps. 139:13-15), and WHEREAS, each Christian must recognize that abortion is the taking of a human life, and is therefore a grievous sin, except in the rare instance of it being used to save a mother’s life, therefore

1. Be it resolved, that we ask each congregation of our synod to study this issue, and
2. Be it further resolved, that our Evangelical Lutheran Synod encourage its congregational members to confess publicly that the unborn child is a living person whose right to live must be protected.

Statistics show that only 3% of all abortions performed are because of danger to the mother’s life or physical health, rape, incest, or fetal handicap. This means that 97% of all abortions are for the obvious sake of convenience. The question on whether an abortion could be granted in the case of a pregnancy resulting from either rape or incest frequently is used to arouse an emotional appeal to beg the question as to *when* God enables human life to begin. Since the Bible *does* establish human life as encompassing the moment of conception, as well as the entire term in the womb, and since *God* is always viewed as the giver of that life, even when a child is conceived in a violent manner or an illegitimate manner (Gen. 19:36), all measures should be taken to preserve the life of the child once begun. Even when faced with the rare circumstance of a mother’s life threatened by the life of her unborn child, the Christian will seek to preserve the life he can with the desire to save both lives if possible.

No Christian should ever slight the utter repugnance of rape or incest. But in those most unusual cases where a pregnancy has resulted, abortion is not to be sought as a “corrective measure.” Seeing the life to full term and even suggesting adoption, if need be, is the Christian advice. Because of the Christian’s knowledge of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, even through much past pain and shame the “cross” can be borne. “If you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God” (I Peter 2:20).



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i>	5	6
7 <i>Pentecost 4</i> Worship with Communion 9:30 AM Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM	8	9	10 <i>Happy Birthday Micah Smith</i>	11 Rogue River Place Outreach Event 2:30 PM	12	13
14 <i>Pentecost 5</i> Worship 9:30 AM Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM <i>Happy Birthday Isaac Smith</i>	15	16 <i>Happy Birthday William Jay</i>	17	18 <i>Happy Birthday Kara Bednar</i> CLWMS Meeting 3:30 PM	19	20 <i>Happy Birthday Pastor Smith</i>
21 <i>Pentecost 6</i> Worship with Communion 9:30 AM Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM	22	23 Council Meeting 4:30 PM	24	25	26 <i>Happy Birthday Randy Bednar</i> <i>Happy Birthday Richard Howard</i>	27
28 <i>Pentecost 7</i> Worship 9:30 AM Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM	29	30	31	<i>"He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins" (Colossians 1:13-14).</i>		

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