

*For the week of the Last Sunday of the Church Year
November 20th, through November 26th, 2022*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — “The King’s Will” One of the most confused doctrines I’ve come across is on that of “heaven.” I often try to avoid using the term “heaven” when speaking about where a believer “goes to” when they die. In many Christian’s minds it seems “heaven” is simply a place “somewhere out there,” as if we could only get in a rocket and travel far enough to get there. Now, many people know that such a notion is ridiculous, but think and act as if heaven is “out there” and “not here.” Instead, I more so use terms like “the nearer presence of Christ” or “before the throne of Christ.” The truth is that Heaven is a *kingdom*. *God’s kingdom*.

We can talk about kingdoms and the space they occupy, for that is easier for the mind to grasp, but borders don’t really make a kingdom...and God’s kingdom isn’t limited to a space. What truly makes a kingdom is the rule and reign of the king who sits on the throne. Anywhere his rule and reign is honored his kingdom is found. So, the soldier who honors his king on a foreign battlefield brings that kingdom with him. In a similar way, an embassy also is the presence of the sponsoring kingdom as they are under the authority of their home kingdom and not under the authority of the kingdom that hosts them.

So, what does that mean about Heaven, the kingdom of God? It means His kingdom is present wherever His Spirit is at work to bring the will of God to bear on the hearts and minds of believers. Most visibly, this happens in the embassy of His Church as God’s people gather together to honor His Word and receive His gifts. But this also happens as each individual Christian seeks to honor God’s will in their lives. We *are* on a foreign battlefield, fighting Satan, the world, and even our own sinful flesh.

Yet the Spirit’s presence brings the Kingdom of God to bear upon our hearts, minds, and wills. When we pray for God’s Kingdom to come and His will to be done, we aren’t praying for God to make these a reality. They already are fixed realities that will endure much longer than our flesh. Instead, we pray that we recognize and honor them, and that the Spirit accomplish them within our communities and even within our very own selves. We pray that His Kingdom would be victorious and God’s will would reign supreme in us. For if we do not give heed to His will, then we are establishing our own rebellious kingdoms. He may allow those kingdoms to exist for a time, but they *will* fall in the end. What will endure, however, is His Kingdom, and all who are found to be in His Kingdom by the virtue of His Son.

Thus, all who have Christ already dwell in the Kingdom of Heaven now and forever. We are simply waiting until that Day when that Kingdom will be revealed for all to see. Amen.

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

*Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate.
Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.*

Theme: The Second & Third Petition

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

APOSTLES’ CREED

VERSE: 1 PETER 5:7-8

Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

PSALM 46 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below

Prayer on the Psalm:

Thanks be to You, our Father, for all the mercy and truth that You have shown to us these many years. Grant Your Word to dwell with us continually, defend Your church against all enemies, keep us in Your grace, and preserve for us temporal and eternal peace through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	97, 98	101	103	105	107	108, 110	113, 114	116, 117
Evening	99, 100	102	104	106	109	111, 112	115	118

BIBLE READINGS

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Luke 23:27-43	
Monday	Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel—Genesis 29:1-30	John 6:1-24
Tuesday	The Children of Jacob—Genesis 29:31-30:24	John 6:25-51
Wednesday	The King's Table, Mephibosheth—2 Samuel 4:4; 9:1-13	John 6:52-71
Thursday	Laban Agrees to Divide the Livestock with Jacob—Genesis 30:25-43	John 7:1-24
Friday	Jacob Flees from Laban—Genesis 31:1-21	John 7:25-52
Saturday	Isaiah 2:1-5	Romans 13:8-14

CATECHISM — The Lord's Prayer, The Second and Third Petition

Thy Kingdom come.	Preschool+
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.	First Grade+
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.	Preschool+
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.	First Grade+

Prayer on the Second and Third Petition

Merciful Father, ruler of all things in heaven and on earth, we acknowledge that Your good and gracious will is done without our prayer. We pray that You would defeat all that opposes Your will: the devil, the world, and our own sinful nature. In Your mercy, we implore You to strengthen and keep us firm in Your Word and faith all the days of our lives and bring us at last the inheritance You have prepared for us in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

DAILY PRAYER

Select from among the following prayers as time allows:

Collect of the Week

Lord Jesus Christ, You reign among us by the preaching of Your Cross. Forgive Your people their offenses that we, being governed by Your bountiful goodness, may enter at last into Your eternal paradise; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Themes for Prayer

- Sunday:** *For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacrament.*
- Monday:** *For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.*
- Tuesday:** *For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin.*
- Wednesday:** *For marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.*
- Thursday:** *For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed Sacrament of Christ's body and blood.*
- Friday:** *For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.*
- Saturday:** *For faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.*

In Our Prayers this Week

Our Congregation: *Richard & Denise Weber; Diana & James Weber; David Wells; David & Tracy White, Abby, Daniel, Elias, Kady, Nathan, Noah, Samuel; Dick & Anita Williams; Kirk & Lavonne Wright*

Baptismal Birthdays: *Carrie Barry; Timothy Roth; Melissa Rictor; Aubrey Watkins; Jerron Herrmann.*

Wedding Anniversaries:

The Sick:

Friends of our Congregation: *Randall Roth, Pastor Roth's father; Judy, sister of Marty Piotrowsky*

Our Circuit:

Faith Lutheran Church, Emporia; Rev. Adam Reichart

Messiah Lutheran Church, Emporia; Rev. Eddie Hosch

Our District Staff and President, *Rev. Justin Panzer.*

Heather Williams, Business Manager; Shannon Fender, Administrative Assistant

Our Synod and President, *Rev. Matthew Harrison*

Our Community: *City of Pomona; City of Williamsburg; USD 287*

Our State and Governor, *Laura Kelly*

Our Nation and President, *Joseph Biden*

LORD'S PRAYER

MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER FROM THE CATECHISM

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

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HYMN OF THE WEEK

“Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying”

516

1 “Wake, awake, for night is flying,”
The watchmen on the heights are crying;
“Awake, Jerusalem, arise!”
Midnight hears the welcome voices
And at the thrilling cry rejoices:
“Oh, where are ye, ye virgins wise?
The Bridegroom comes, awake!
Your lamps with gladness take!
Alleluia!
With bridal care
Yourselves prepare
To meet the Bridegroom, who is near.”

2 Zion hears the watchmen singing,
And all her heart with joy is springing;
She wakes, she rises from her gloom.
For her Lord comes down all-glorious,
The strong in grace, in truth victorious;
Her star is ris’n, her light is come.
Now come, Thou Blessèd One,
Lord Jesus, God’s own Son,
Hail! Hosanna!
We enter all
The wedding hall
To eat the Supper at Thy call.

3 Now let all the heav’ns adore Thee,
Let saints and angels sing before Thee
With harp and cymbals’ clearest tone.
Of one pearl each shining portal,
Where, joining with the choir immortal,
We gather round Thy radiant throne.
No eye has seen the light,
No ear has heard the might
Of Thy glory;
Therefore will we
Eternally
Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee!

Text: Public domain

Looking Forward to “First Sunday in Advent”

November 27, 2022

Service Hymns: 516, 331, 332, 343

Readings: Isaiah 2:1-5 | Romans 13:(8-10) 11-14 | Matthew 21:1-11 or Matthew 24:36-44

The Lord Jesus enters Jerusalem “humble, and mounted on a donkey,” riding on “a beast of burden” (Matt. 21:5), as He Himself bears the sins of the world in His body. Now He comes by the ministry of the Gospel to save us from sin, death, the devil and hell. Therefore, we sing, “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” (Matt. 21:9). For we are called “to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob,” His Holy Church, “that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths” (Is. 2:3). By His Word, we “walk in the light of the LORD” (Is. 2:5). That is to live in love, which “does no wrong to a neighbor” (Rom. 13:10). We “cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light,” for “salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed” (Rom. 13:11, 12). Hence, the entire Christian life is a time to wake and watch, “for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming” (Matt. 24:42).

