Theme Kingdom of God

**Intro Questions**

**Share a time when you were excitedly waiting for something in the future. What did you do to make it happen? Was it as you expected?**

**Sermon Review**

**What spoke to you during the service?**

**What was your favorite song/hymn, and why?**

**How did you worship this weekend (in-person/ online)?**

**What was one thing from the message that challenged you?**

**Bible Study**

*Leader’s Note:* *This week we are going to be spending time on the first few petitions or requests that we make of God in the Lord’s Prayer. Instead of diving into one or two specific passages, we are going to look at what scripture has revealed to us about God’s coming kingdom and how we fit in to his will being done. Because of the many opinions and theologies surrounding this topic within American Christianity, you may find yourself deep into tangential topics. If discussions of the Rapture, Armageddon, Pre/Post-Millennial Dispensationalism or really anything of the end times comes up, feel free to move the conversation back to the study. If your group would like to discuss these things further, let me know and I would be happy to facilitate the discussion or provide you with the materials to do so.*

***Open the bible study by praying the Lord’s Prayer as a group.***

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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

**Why do you think Jesus has our first petitions to God be “Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven?”**

**What is the kingdom of God?** The kingdom of God is rather broad and has many meanings in scripture depending on the context. For instance, we know that nothing is outside of God’s control and reign and so God’s kingdom is all of creation. However, we pray for God’s kingdom to come, echoing the words of John the Baptist that the kingdom of God is at hand. In this prayer we are asking that God’s perfect kingdom of salvation comes to us. Luther writes in the small catechism the kingdom of God comes indeed without our prayer, of itself; but we pray in this petition that it may come unto us also”

**What do you think heaven/ the new creation/ the new jerusalem is like? Why do you think that?**

*Leader’s Notes: As you read these passages, feel free to spend some time discussing the context if you or someone else knose it, and things that stand out to them in the reading. Part of the joy of reading the bible together is finding out how God’s Word effects each one of us.*

*Read John 18:33-40* **How does Jesus describe his kingdom? What is misunderstood about it?**

*Read Isaiah 11:1-9* **What does God’s kingdom look like? What is present?** God’s kingdom is a place of eternal peace, joy and relationship. We see all creatures living in harmony even among those who were previously deadly toward one another. *For you animal lovers out there, notice that there will be a plethora of animals in the new creation.*

*Read Revelation 21:1-4* **Again How is God’s kingdom described? What is absent from it?** It is described as a reunion between God and man where we once again live and walk with God as Adam and Eve had done in the garden. There is no death, pain, or suffering present in his kingdom.

*Read Ezekiel 47:1-12* **From where does the water flow? How does it change the land around it? How does it transform the vegetation it touches?**

**From these readings, how would you describe God’s coming kingdom?**

**Right after we pray for God’s kingdom to come, we ask that his will is done. What would you say is the will of God?** *Recite or read John 3:16*. **From the passages that we read, what would you say God’s will is?** He tells us quite clearly throughout His Word that his will is to bring salvation to all people and to restore his creation to him and back to perfection.

**How is God’s will done and his kingdom brought to creation?** *Reread or paraphrase Isaiah 11:1-2**and John 18:36-*37 God’s kingdom comes and his will is done through him. **What do you think our role is in bringing forth God’s Kingdom?** Concerning both these requests in the Lord’s prayer, Luther writes that God’s will and Kingdom are done without our prayer. God does not need us to do anything for his will to be done or for his kingdom to come. If it were dependent upon our actions then we would not have the certainty that his will and kingdom would come to us, but thanks be to God that through his Holy Spirit completing his will, we have certainty in his promised Word.

**We we do nothing to bring about God’s will or his kingdom, what role do we play in his plan? Why pray for these things to happen at all?** While the certainty of God’s kingdom coming and his will being done rests in his hands, he invites us to take part in doing his will and bringing his kingdom.

**What are some ways that you can bring God’s kingdom into this world?** God’s kingdom comes through the sharing of the gospel. *One of my favorite Martin Luther quotes is “God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does.”*

**Reflection**

**What comfort do you find in the way God has revealed his kingdom?**

**What is a way that you can reflect or share his kingdom and will this week?**