



4/12/2020

“For the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory are Yours”

Scripture: Matthew 28:1-10; (Matthew 6:9-13); Psalm 29:1-2

Lenten Series: Living the Lord’s Prayer

Easter/Resurrection Sunday

We have journeyed these past forty-some days Living the Lord’s Prayer. Those of you who have been listening or reading regularly have hopefully gained fresh insight, inspiration and spiritual formation as you learned and lived more into the prayer which Jesus taught his disciples so long ago. And today, as we celebrate the resurrection of our Savior and Lord, we conclude with words found in some later manuscripts of the gospel, as translated in the KJV and others – For Thine (or “Yours”) is The Kingdom, The Power and the Glory.

These words were most certainly lived and exemplified in and through Jesus himself – by his own life, death and resurrection.

As we journey here and now through this unusual and difficult time for many, if not most of us in our country and on our planet, we can proclaim with faith and assurance that God still rules over all. We can trust and rely upon God’s power and strength, not simply our own. And we can give praise and glory to the One who loves us, even dying for us.

Just as we first prayed for God’s kingdom to come on earth as in heaven, now we acknowledge and affirm that the kingdom, the power, and the glory are truly God’s. And we do that with our hearts, our minds, and our souls; both body and spirit. We, too, live in newness of life and life eternal, just as Jesus promised.

As the Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Rome, “We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, **just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.**” (Romans 6:3-4 NIV)

Erica Smith of Tennessee shared her story with readers of The Upper Room yesterday (The Hope of Easter, UR 4/11/20). Speaking of another year previous to this one, she writes . . .

“On the Saturday before Easter I woke up in tears, feeling completely overwhelmed. I had just given up a job that gave me worldly success so that I could live a life dedicated to ministry, and my new vocation was riddled with obstacles. To make matters worse, my husband had just been told that the promotion he was promised had been given to someone else. We couldn’t understand why God felt so far off and silent, and we were anxious and confused.

“I realized how disoriented the disciples must have felt on the Saturday before the first Easter. They not only mourned the loss of their teacher and friend but also their hopes and dreams that he



would be their earthly king. Their decision to leave their jobs and families to follow Christ must have seemed pointless, and they were probably looking for answers. Like the disciples, we can't always see how God is working in our lives. But we know how the story ends. Amid the confusion, anxiety, and waiting we may experience during our dark "Saturdays," we can be assured that God is at work in the world, giving us the hope of Sunday — the resurrection of Easter morning — and new life through Christ."

So, what does that new life look like for you and me? How do we acknowledge God's kingdom, power and glory in our lives? How does the resurrection of Jesus make a difference now and in the future?

First, because of Christ's resurrection we can even more affirm our faith in a living God.

Our basic affirmation of faith, as contained in the Apostles' Creed, says that we believe in God the Father, and in Jesus Christ his Son, who was crucified, died and was buried. But on the third day he rose again from death.

When we pray "The kingdom, the power and the glory are yours" we acknowledge and affirm our belief in God and his Son Jesus. The resurrection of Jesus Christ, as witnessed by those first disciples who believed that Jesus was sent by God, allows us to pray with assurance that the kingdom, the power and the glory are indeed God's!

And because of our faith in a loving and mighty God and a risen Savior, we can face uncertainty, illness and disease, hardship and pain, trials and temptations.

So, if you find yourself doubting or questioning your faith, if you struggle with your finances, if you're concerned about the well-being and direction of a loved one, remember and pray with assurance – the kingdom, the power and the glory are God's. If you have difficulty forgiving someone or are tempted to sin yourself, remember God's loving and saving grace for you and others.

Second, because of Christ's resurrection we ascribe or give glory due God's name.

Psalm 29:1-2 (NIV) declares: "Ascribe to the LORD, O mighty ones, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness."

This is precisely what the Lord's Prayer teaches us to pray. When we pray, "For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory." we are rightly ascribing or attributing glory and honor to God.



We lift our prayers acknowledging that God is God – that the kingdom, the power, and the glory are his and not our own or anyone else's. They are of God's making and not our own. We are invited to enter God's kingdom, to rely upon God's power and share in God's glory, but God is the source of them all.

Remember that when Jesus was taken before Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor of Judea, and asked if he was king of the Jews, Jesus said his kingdom was not of this world. That meant that his was not a worldly kingdom, limited to earthly or natural boundaries. Rather, his kingdom is first of the heart and mind, soul and spirit of those who receive and follow him.

And by Christ's resurrection God has crowned Jesus with all power and majesty. Christ is our king eternal.

Paul said, "Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father."

And as we affirm in the Apostles' Creed. "He sits at the right hand of God the Father" in heaven, on the throne of grace.

So, how do we ascribe or attribute glory, strength and honor to God and God's name? One way is by praying. Another is by worshiping God. Through songs and hymns of praise and adoration, we tell and sing what wonderful things God has done and provided -- most wonderful of all Jesus Christ himself, crucified and risen for all humankind!

And we can ascribe or give God the glory in and through our lives, as by the Holy Spirit Jesus rules in our thoughts, our words and our actions, as well as our feelings and desires.

When we pray, "The kingdom, the power and the glory are yours." we are telling God that we align ourselves with God's way and purpose. **Our prayer is to serve God the Father and our risen Savior in this world.** We desire and seek to be part of God's kingdom on earth, even as we desire to be part of his kingdom in heaven.

That means he rules in our hearts and lives.

† **So, remember the good news -- that by Christ's resurrection and the power of the Holy Spirit given to all who believe, you can live a new life in Christ.**

The new life we live in Christ gives us power, even over sin and death.

The new life we live in Christ gives us courage and hope to face tomorrow and all that it may bring.



The new life we live in Christ gives us peace that passes understanding and knowledge.

The new life we live in Christ seeks and strives first for God's kingdom and righteousness.

The new life we live in Christ seeks and strives to share God's love with others.

The new life we live in Christ seeks and strives to make the world in which we live a better place for all.

I give thanks and glory to God for saving me and giving me new life in Jesus Christ. And my heart is always warmed to hear how God can and has changed the lives of others. I am thankful and glad to join in the ministries of this congregation, and so many others; for ways which God enables me to share his love and good news to and with others.

If you haven't received that new life or want someone to pray with you about a concern you have, I invite you to call or email me after today's service and I will join with you in prayer.

And if you have received that new life in Christ, continue to live out our Lord's Prayer in your life each day.

I encourage you to continue practicing intentional and random acts of kindness in this very difficult time, demonstrating the kingdom, the power and the glory of God each day.

And may you be blessed in knowing and following the risen Christ