

Lent Midweek 2—February 21, 2024  
Text: The Lord's Prayer  
Theme: The Windows of the Nave – 2<sup>nd</sup> Petition



**We continue our midweek series looking at the Lord's Prayer and particularly our windows on the south side of the Nave that celebrate the highest of all prayers. Last week we looked at Our Father who art in Heaven and Hallowed be thy Name. This week, we look at Thy Kingdom come. Open your hymnals to page 324 and read the 2<sup>nd</sup> Petition of the Lord's Prayer with me.**

**"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."**

**Look at the third window, and if you cannot see the window, it is on your bulletin cover. We see in the window a ship cutting through a vast stormy sea. One wonders why the artist would use such an image for "thy kingdom come." Well, the Bible talks about God's kingdom in three ways. First, it talks about the kingdom of power. The kingdom of power is God's rule over this world. No matter what kind of nonsense human beings get up to, God is always in control. The ship in the window is large and powerful and if you think about the way it is cutting through the pounding waves, you can think about the way God leads His Church in this world to cut through any and all earthly obstacles. We never have to fear the evil of this world because God is ultimately in control. If we are faithful to God, we will be fine.**

**Second, there is the kingdom of glory which is where we will be on the day of the resurrection. Everyone who died in faith will be there, and all the rest of us, who are looking forward to getting there, will be there. God's kingdom of glory is our Promised Land. Now we are making our way through the wilderness of sin, but eventually, we will arrive in the kingdom of glory. The ship in the window is the Church. She plows through the pounding waves of this world to deliver us to the shores of paradise. She does not waver from her course no matter how she is buffeted by the waves**

**of sin. Our challenge in this life is to try to steer the Church true. We will be tempted to make concessions to the storms so that our passage will be easier, but we are called to trust in God, plow forward with His Word and Sacrament, and never waver from His path.**

**Third, there is the kingdom of grace. That is the kingdom in which we of the Holy Catholic Church exist right now. By grace, God has brought us aboard His ship. Jesus Christ paid the price of our passage with His death on the cross, and by suffering the torments of Hell. We live out each day fully under God's authority. He is the one who captains this ship and we lay all of our cares at His feet.**

**We pray this petition, thy kingdom come, not because God needs any help bringing His authority to bear but because we have a tendency to forget who the captain of the ship is. We do not captain our own ship. We serve God. We are the crew, not the captain, and we pray in this petition that God would daily remind us that He is in charge and empower us through His holy Word and Sacrament to be the most faithful crew we can be until that great and glorious day when He lands this ship on the shores of the Promised Land.**

**Praying "thy kingdom come" is an empowering prayer because we remind ourselves that it is neither our privilege nor our responsibility to make God's kingdom come. We are the crew of the**

**ship and what we do is listen to the captain and follow His orders to the best of our abilities. He will call the shots and He will safely pilot us to the Promised Land. Memorize that window. Whenever life seems to be piling up on you look into your mind and see that magnificent ship cutting through the waves and remember, you are the crew, not the captain. Regardless of what other people might say to you or expect from you, you are the crew and the captain pilots the ship. Psalm 103 tells us,**

**“The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all. Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word! Bless the LORD, all his hosts, his ministers, who do his will! Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul!”**