

Divine Worship

Daniel 7.13-27 "An Everlasting Kingdom"

Preparation

For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.

Silent Meditation

1 Corinthians 4.20

Call to Worship

Leader:

Blessed *be* the LORD, the God of Israel,
Who only does wondrous things!

Psalm 72.18, 29

People:

And blessed *be* His glorious name forever!
And let the whole earth be filled *with* His glory.

All:

Amen and Amen!

Hymn of Praise

"I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord" by Timothy Dwight

I love Thy kingdom, Lord,
The place of Thine abode,
The church our blest Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood.

I love Thy church, O God;
Her walls before Thee stand,
Dear as the apple of Thine eye,
And graven on Thy hand.

For her my tears shall fall;
For her my prayers ascend;
To her my cares and toils be giv'n,
Till toils and cares shall end.

Beyond my highest joy
I prize her heav'nly ways,
Her sweet communion, solemn vows,
Her hymns of love and praise.

Sure as Thy truth shall last,
To Zion shall be giv'n
The brightest glories earth can yield,
And brighter bliss of Heav'n.

Invocation

Leader

Yours is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, O Lord! How we rejoice to belong to You, to be safe in Your hand, translated into Your Kingdom, and bound for everlasting joy and praise with You! We gather as citizens and ambassadors of Your Kingdom, called to Your Kingdom and glory, to seek and serve You in every aspect of our lives, and to love You with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. We come humbly before You, Lord, knowing that we are yet sinners in need of Your mercy and grace, and so we bow before You in silence. Search us, Lord, and show us our sins, that we may confess them in silence, and know the cleansing power of Your love:

Silent Confession

All

Word of Assurance

Leader:

Thank You, Lord, for hearing our confessions, receiving us into Your holy Presence, and preparing our hearts to worship You in Spirit and in truth. We all do extol You, our Leader, triumphant! And we praise Your Name together, saying:

All:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Let heaven and earth be filled with Your glory!

All

Hymn of Thanksgiving

Psalm 72.18-20

(Martyrdom: *Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed*)

Now bless the God of Israel
Who wondrous works performs.
And bless His Name, His glory tell
both now and forevermore!

Prayers of Thanksgiving

All

All may offer a word of thanksgiving for the many blessings of the Lord. At the end, let the Leader lead the people in praying the Lord's Prayer.

Offerings to the Lord

Here, all may bring an offering of praise and honor to the Lord: a passage of Scripture which has been particularly helpful; a brief word of thanksgiving for some grace of God bestowed; an observation from creation which revealed the glory of the Lord; a word of appreciation for some aspect of the beauty, goodness, or truth of the Lord. When all have shared, the Leader shall pray:

Lord Jesus, receive these offerings that Your Name may be exalted among us, among the nations, and throughout all the earth. Increase our love for You by these offerings, O Lord; and grant that we may

have eyes to see and open hearts to receive Your many good and wondrous gifts which come down to us daily from You. We confess our love for You, Lord; we confess our firm conviction that You are Lord, and we confess our confidence together in You, and in Your plan for us, using the Creed handed down from our forebears:

All together, saying the Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Doxology

All

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!
Praise Him, all creatures, here below!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts!
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!
Amen!

The Ministry of the Word

Daniel 7.13-27

Here the Leader may read the passage for today, or members may take turns reading verses until the entire passage has been read.

Leader:

In this vision, Daniel sees the coming of Christ's Kingdom to earth – the event which actually occurred in Acts 2, on the first Christian Pentecost. Having ascended to heaven, (Acts 1.9), Jesus was received with shouts of triumph (Ps. 47), declared to be King (Ps. 2), and given a seat at the right hand of God the Father (Ps. 110). Let's take a moment and read Psalms 47, 2, and 110:

(Let different people read each psalm.)

1. In Psalm 2, the proclamation that Jesus is King and Lord is God’s response to the rebellion of the nations. Is this still His response today? According to this psalm what does God promise for those who embrace Jesus? What does He threaten those who do not?

2. In Psalm 47, all heaven rejoices to receive Jesus as King and Lord, and all who do are referred to as “the people of Abraham” – that is, the people who believe the promises of God. But while these people – all who believe – worship Jesus, all “the shields of the earth” belong to Him. Over how much of the world is Jesus Lord?

3. In Psalm 110, Jesus has a team of “volunteers” who go out, like the morning dew, to refresh the world. Who are these people? How do they refresh the world?

Daniel saw that Jesus received the Kingdom – the reward of His work of redemption, His death and resurrection from the tomb. And He has given that Kingdom to His saints – to us – which we receive in the Person of the Holy Spirit. Then we go out as “volunteers” for Jesus to bring this soul-refreshing Good News to the world. But not everyone in the world is happy to hear the Gospel.

4. Why wouldn’t *everybody* be happy to hear about Jesus death, resurrection, and enthronement, and the gift of forgiveness and eternal life He offers?

5. In Daniel’s vision, what do the nations of the world – here represented by the Roman empire, the powerful beast of verses 19, 20 – try to do to those who bear the Good News? Is this still true in our day?

Daniel kept watching, and he saw that ultimately God stepped in to judge those who fought with His volunteers, and He gave them, for their faithfulness and endurance, the fullness of the Kingdom (v. 27). Receiving, living, embodying, and proclaiming the Kingdom is the Christian’s highest calling (1 Thess. 2.12). Seeking the Kingdom is our foremost duty (Matt. 6.33). Living according to the Law of the Kingdom is our greatest privilege (Matt. 5.17-19). But that doesn’t mean that this is going to be an easy road. Jesus, Who suffered and died and rose again, has given us the example we need to follow: Believe in Jesus, take up your cross, seek the Kingdom, and persevere in the Lord, no matter what.

6. When is the “Then” of verse 27? Is it now, during what we know as human history? Or is it beyond history, in the eternal Presence of the Lord? Or is it some now, and the rest – and the fullness – in the hereafter? Either way, for what should we be living now?

Meditate in silence on the teaching of Daniel 7.13-27.

All (sharing):

Summarize in one thought what God wants us to learn from this meditation.

Hymn for the Coming of the Kingdom
(Martyrdom: [*Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed*](#))

Psalm 72.7-17

Let righteousness abundant be

where Jesus' reign endures;
Let peace increase from sea to sea
'til moonlight shall be no more.

And let the Righteous rule the earth,
and let His foes bow low;
Let nations praise His matchless worth,
and all His bidding do.

The Lord the needy rescues when
he cries to Him for grace;
All they who suffer violence
find mercy before His face.

Let Christ be praised and all the gold
of Sheba be His right;
Let blessings to His Name be told,
and prayers made both day and night.

And let the earth abound with grain,
let fields His fame proclaim;
And may our King forever reign
and nations bless His great Name.

Benediction

Leader

You have been seated with King Jesus in heavenly places (Eph. 2.6). Rest in Him, go in His Name, and live for His glory in all you do.

All:

Amen! The Lord be with you!

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