

# Divine Worship

## Matthew 6.25-34 “Seeking the Kingdom”

### Preparation

Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil; for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. For he who serves Christ in these things *is* acceptable to God and approved by men.

### Silent Meditation

**Romans 14.16-18**

### Call to Worship

**Matthew 11.28-30**

Leader:

Hear the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who says, “Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.”

### Hymn of Praise

**“I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art”, vv. 1-4 John Calvin  
(Toulon)**

I greet Thee, Who my sure Redeemer art,  
my only trust and Savior of my heart,  
who pain didst undergo for my poor sake;  
I pray Thee from our hearts all cares to take.

Thou art the King of mercy and of grace,  
reigning omnipotent in ev'ry place:  
so come, O King, and our whole being sway;  
shine on us with the light of thy pure day.

Thou art the Life, by which alone we live,  
and all our substance and our strength receive;  
O comfort us in death's approaching hour,  
strong-hearted then to face it by Thy pow'r.

Thou hast the true and perfect gentleness,  
no harshness hast Thou and no bitterness:  
make us to taste the sweet grace found in Thee  
and ever stay in Thy sweet unity.

### Invocation and Call to Confession

Leader:

We come to You, Lord Jesus, eager to see the glory in Your face, to hear Your words of truth and life, to make our offerings of praise and thanks, and to testify of the wonders of Your love. But we would first be cleansed of all our sins, O our sure Redeemer, so we ask you to **hear our silent confessions, Lord.**

### Silent Confession

**All**

**Word of Assurance**

**Romans 8.1, 2, 10**

Leader:

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

People:

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

All:

And since Christ is in us, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness.

**Hymn of Assurance**

**“I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art”, v. 5 John Calvin**  
([Toulon](#))

Our hope is in no other save in Thee;  
our faith is built upon thy promise free;  
O grant to us such stronger hope and sure  
that we can boldly conquer and endure.

**Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving**

**All**

All may offer prayers of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord. At the end, let the Leader lead the people in **praying the Lord’s Prayer**.

**Offerings to the Lord**

Leader:

Let us now bring our offerings to honor the Lord and edify one another by His Word: a passage of Scripture which has been particularly helpful; a brief word of praise 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**:

We give You thanks and praise, O Lord, and offer our confession of faith together (**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**

**Matthew 6.25-34**

The Leader will read the passage for today, or ask another to read it.

Leader:

Human beings are natural-born seekers. From childhood on through our entire lives, seeking plays a major role in who we are.

1. What are some ways you can see this, for example, in children? How about in your own life?

It seems, then, that as human beings, we're going to seek something. People seek many things which they hope will make them happy, keep them safe, or assure them of the fullest possible life. The difficulty of acquiring or gaining the things they seek causes many people to become anxious or to worry about whether they've made the right choices and decisions. Anxiousness and worry intensify seeking, and if seeking is misdirected – that is, if what we're seeking is simply not obtainable, or if it turns out not to deliver on what we'd hoped – then seeking can lead through worry and anxiousness to despair and self-doubt.

Jesus understands that we are made for seeking. He also knows we can easily fall into anxiousness and despair. In our text for today, Jesus addresses these matters by helping us to gain a proper focus for our seeking inclinations. First, though, He addresses our tendency to fret (vv. 25-32).

2. Why do we worry about having enough to eat or wear or anything else? At bottom, what is worry?
3. Why did Jesus say that we must not worry about *anything*?
4. Read Philippians 4.6, 7. According to Paul, what is the antidote to worrying? To what does that antidote lead?

OK, so we're not going to pour our seeking energies into things that perish, things that our heavenly Father is already preparing for us every day, and has promised to provide. We want to seek that which, as we obtain it, will assure that all these other matters will fall into place.

Jesus said we must seek the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God, as we have seen (Rom. 14.16-18), is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.

5. Why does it make sense that all our seeking should focus on this Kingdom?
6. How would you explain to a new Christian what it means to seek the Kingdom and righteousness of God? How do *you* seek these?

Jesus is the embodiment of the Kingdom, the Ruler of the Kingdom, the Giver of the Kingdom, and the Power for Kingdom living. He has promised that, if we will invest our seeking energies in pursuing the Kingdom and righteousness of God, everything we need will be provided, and we will be able to handle the daily challenges that come our way.

7. How can believers encourage one another in this highest priority of seeking?

Meditate in silence on the teaching of Matthew 6.25-34.

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

### **Hymn of Commitment**

**Psalm 20.1-9**

(St. Leonard's: [\*May the Mind of Christ, My Savior\*](#))

Jesus, Savior, hear my pleading, set me safely, Lord, on high.  
Help me by Your gracious leading and receive my cry.

May You by Your Church support me; gladly, Lord, receive my praise.  
May my thanks a good report be with You all my days.

Grant my every earnest longing. Let my counsel be fulfilled.  
May I joyous song be strong in, living in Your will.

In Your Name we raise our banners; Lord, fulfill our every prayer.  
Saved are we in glorious manner, free from every care.

Answer from Your holy heaven, save us by Your mighty hand!  
Some to earthly boasts are given; in Your grace we stand.

They have bowed and fallen, Savior, while we rise and stand upright.  
Grant to us Your royal favor, hear us day and night.

### **Benediction**

**Psalm 20.4, 5**

Leader:

May the LORD grant you according to your heart's desire, to fulfill all your purpose.

All:

We will rejoice in the salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ, and in His Name, we will set up our banners!

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