

# **“For Thine is the Kingdom”**

**November 5, 2017**

**Our Savior’s Way  
Worshiping Sundays 8:00, 9:30, & 11:00 AM  
Pastor Justin Kumfer**

The tallest building in DC, by law, is the Washington monument. At one point in time this monument was the tallest in the world. The people who constructed it made it to honor our first president who faced immense opposition and struggle fighting for our independence. At the very top of this monument is the capstone; a pyramid made from aluminum. Each side carries an inscription but the side that faces east, the side pointed towards the rest of the world, states, “Laus Deo” - which means “Praise be to God.”

This small phrase reveals much. First and foremost it understands to whom should go the praise for all that man has accomplished—to God alone. We have a word used in the worship tradition of the church that says the same thing. Doxology. The word doxology simply means “praise.” We saw an example in our reading from Revelation today, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.” Some sing it in traditional worship settings, and we even sing it in chapel every week.

Here at the close of our study of the Lord’s Prayer we find another doxology. The conclusion to the Lord’s prayer states, “For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and forever. Amen.” But did you know that this line isn’t a part of many ancient texts concerning the Lord’s prayer?

Theologians say that it comes primarily out of the tradition of the church. Not just the tradition of the church after Christ, but from the history of the Old Testament. 1 Chronicles 29:11 most closely parallels this addition to the Lord's prayer. It says, "Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all."

But is that something we really believe? We say that we do. Each time that we lift up the words of the prayer that Jesus taught we ask that God's kingdom come, and we declare that the kingdom and everything else is indeed God's. But does our life reflect that belief?

Day to day we struggle with the idea that this life isn't ours. We work to make the best life. We sacrifice to get that which we think is best for our family. We surrender to things we think we cannot change. We're not worried about building God's kingdom...we're worried about building our own. Maybe you don't believe me. Think about this:

How often have you given priority to something besides worship on Sunday? How often do you avoid Bible study because you don't know about the Bible or you would rather sleep in a little longer? How often have you left teaching the faith to your children to the professionals?

I know you're busy. I know you're stressed. I know life is hard. But I also know that living in this way is not trusting God to rule in His kingdom. It's trying to build your own kingdom. An article from [KJVtoday.com](http://KJVtoday.com) shows us what the conclusion of the Lord's prayer is really saying, "The statement, "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen." is a recognition and declaration that God alone deserves credit and glory. The kingdom

is not ours. The power is not ours. The glory is not ours. The doxology affirms to God that "It's not about me, it's all about You." Nothing else in the Lord's prayer affirms this doctrine as clearly as the doxology."

This whole idea that the kingdom is God's has come up before. We asked for it earlier in the Lord's prayer. We want it to come because it's supposed to be better than this life. But we have a hard time understanding what God's kingdom and power and glory look like.

We think that God's kingdom isn't this world. And there is some truth in those words because it doesn't appear as though God reigns here. But we also know that God is the Lord over all things. The maker of heaven and earth. He is the king over all of this whether we see Him or not. And the promise that He gives us is that His kingdom will come. It's coming whether people want it to or not.

In the Lord's prayer we pray that it come amongst us too. And we play a part in that. For God's kingdom to come and be amongst us changes how we behave. It reminds us that we are stewards of what we have been given. Whether it's money or time or how we care about the world or the people in it. It all matters because it's not actually ours in the first place. But it has been given to us by God.

Not only is everything we have given to us by God, but everything we do reflects on our Heavenly Father. How we treat others matters. What we think when we're alone matters. Whether we go to worship or not matters. Teaching our faith to our children matters. And it matters because it reveals the true reality that we're heading towards.

The true reality is the kingdom, power, and glory of God.

Today, is also a celebration of all Saint's Day. This is the day that we remember all those who have gone ahead of us into the kingdom of God. They are actually there, living in the kingdom. They have run the race and reached the blessed end.

And it is indeed a blessing. Faith may seem like a burden at times, but when we live in the grace of God everything else seems to fall into place. It's just like KJVtoday.com author said, "this world is not ours." It belongs to God. And what rises and falls happens under His loving watch. Do we understand it all? Of course not. We're finite beings trying to understand an infinite God. But even with that separation between our understandings we can trust that God will always help us and that He is always with us. Those saints who have gone before us know of the great blessing of faith in Christ, faith that leads us to the thing we've been looking forward to—God's kingdom come. And we give praise to God for His kingdom every time we pray the prayer Jesus taught us.

While you consider these words, watch this video and think about what it will be like for God's kingdom to come. Not in the future, but every day in your life.

May the kingdom and the power and the glory be given to God alone, now and forever. Amen.