

Day 2 – Hallowed be Thy name

Preparing: *Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name...
The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD gives strength to His people.* – Ps. 29:1, 10-11

Pausing: A silent time of resting in the presence of God.

Reading: Ezekiel 36:16-23; 1 Peter 2:9-12

Reflecting: Quite often, our conversation with God begins with our dumping at his feet all of the situations and messes we find ourselves in and would like him to fix, and soon! It's not that God will never listen to an anxiety-filled prayer or shout, but Jesus seems to have a better idea for how a conversation with the living God might more helpfully (for both of us) flow. We heard yesterday that we're to begin by focusing on who it is that we are praying to—Our Father in heaven. That is, we are praying as a part of a family of faith, to the Creator and Redeemer of the world, to the one who, because he is a *heavenly* Father, can be trusted to have the best interests of his children in mind because he is perfect, has ultimate perspective, and holds power over even death.

Jesus now moves us to reflect with this Father on what our three greatest desires should be. The first is that his name should be hallowed. To hallow something is to hold it in highest honor, to revere it. That is because while we matter very much to God, he is the greatest good. What matters most is his reputation, his glory, within which our good is then found.

Hallowing God's name was something the Israelites struggled with, as the prophet Ezekiel makes clear. God's personal name, identified with the capital letters, LORD, had been revealed to Moses in this remarkable way: "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin" (Ex. 34:6-7). Having rescued his children from slavery in Egypt, God had then called them to live as a kingdom of priests and a holy nation (Ex. 19:6). That is, they were to look different than those who lived around them, revealing the character of the LORD in their words and in their deeds. However, they failed miserably in this vocation, profaning God's name through unfaithful and idolatrous living.

Peter, reflecting on this call of Israel, and perhaps linking it with the call of Jesus that his followers let their "light shine before others so that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (Ma 5:14-16), lets the church know that we have a similar vocation. We are to be a holy nation and a kingdom of priests, a people who reveal the goodness and glory of God. This vocation helps to flesh out what it means to be created in God's image, ruling in his name as we worship him, being good stewards over all he has given us. As we do so, we reveal the glory of the God who loves us so dearly.

Reflection Questions:

1. What do you think about God's concern for his reputation? Why do you imagine it might be important?

2. What characteristics or qualities of God can you think of? Make a list. How might you begin to embody each in word, or in deed?

3. In what situation or place do you find it most challenging to hallow God's name?

4. What would it look like to revere God's character, at this time of pandemic, in your home (marriage, parenting, care for elderly)? At your place of work? At your school? In your church?

Singing/Listening: [10,000 Reasons](#) (click to listen)

Praying: Gracious God, I want to ascribe glory to your holy name . . .