

**Day 7 – For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever, Amen**

**Preparing:**     *Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory . . . for  
everything in heaven and earth is yours.*                     – 1 Chron. 29:11

**Pausing:** Enjoy a time of silent rest in God’s presence.

**Reading:** Psalm 22:1-8; Matt. 28:1-10

**Reflecting:**

The psalms of lament are prayers that enable us to express our emotions, and, at the same time, to locate our confidence in God as we petition Him to help deliver us from distress, suffering, and even death. A psalm of lament follows a basic pattern: Protest – Tell God what is wrong. Petition – Tell God what you’d like Him to do about it. Praise – Expression of trust in God today, anchored in His character and His actions in the past, even if you can’t yet see the outcome. Some examples are Psalm 6, 10, 13, 22, 74, 102.

We begin our reflection on this Easter Sunday with a Psalm of Lament (22) and its opening cry: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” This, of course, was a cry that Jesus took up as he hung on the cross, one of his “last words.” Because psalms did not have titles, and were simply assigned a number as they were gathered into the collection that we have, they were known by their first lines. Thus, it is reasonable to assume that as Jesus uttered the first line of Psalm 22, it meant that he had the whole psalm in mind. In fact, the psalm was likely something he had been reflecting on as he went through his time of suffering.

Importantly, while his cry expresses a deep feeling of forsakenness, it is also enfolded, in the way the psalm ends, with confidence in the Father’s care and love, power and might, and therefore, in his ultimate rescue, whatever that was going to look like. It invites us, as we look back to the rescue that was resurrection, to ground our hope, in the midst of our anxiety and fear, in the goodness of God. Like the women who first arrived at the tomb, we come with the fear of our current circumstances, but we are invited to be filled with joy at the resurrection promise that God is in the process of making all things new. To borrow from a parable Jesus told, we are looking forward to a great banquet, of which the resurrection of Jesus provides a delicious anticipation (appetizer?) of its glory!

Thus does the prayer that Jesus taught us to pray end. Jesus doesn’t give the disciples this particular last line to pray, but the church has included it as a fitting crescendo because its truth is found throughout the Bible (e.g., Psalm 102; 145:11-13; 1 Chron. 29:10-13; Mark 8:34-9:1; Rev. 5:6-14). As we pray, we can pray with confidence, and we can seek to live out every petition of the prayer with expectation, because God’s kingdom and power and glory

have arrived in Jesus, and through his death and resurrection, have been nailed to forever. Amen.

**Reflection Questions:**

1. What do you want to tell God today? Are there any fears you have on this Easter day?
2. Looking back, how have you seen God's goodness and deliverance at work in your life?
3. Does the resurrection fill you with joy? Why, or why not?
4. Pray through the Lord's Prayer in its entirety. What thoughts or feelings does the last phrase bring when you arrive there?

**Singing/Listening:** *Majesty*

**Praying:** Pray with one of the psalms of lament listed above, or write one of your own sometime today, expressing your heart to God.