



DOVER DAILY DEVOTIONS

On Sunday we lingered over the petition, “Your kingdom come” in the Lord’s Prayer. We saw that Jesus gives these words not for us to repeat mindlessly, but to steady and reshape us. We learned to think of the kingdom not as a place on a map, but as God’s saving reign through Jesus Christ, brought home to us by the Holy Spirit. And we asked the Lord to press that reign down into our hearts, shape it into the shared life of the church, and send it outward through the gospel until the day the King returns and his rule is openly, finally, and joyfully complete.

Monday: A Kingdom That Cannot Be Shaken

Scripture Reading:

Daniel 7:13–14

Devotional:

Daniel’s vision shows us a King and a kingdom that outlasts every headline, every regime, every season of fear. The Son of Man comes to the Ancient of Days, and everlasting dominion is placed into his hands. So when we pray, “Your kingdom come,” we are not trying to persuade God to start doing something he has not planned. We are learning to see what is already true. Jesus Christ reigns. His authority is real even when the world looks chaotic and our own lives feel unstable.

Many of our anxieties come from living as if the present moment is ultimate. But if Christ’s kingdom cannot be destroyed, then the worst thing is never the last thing. The King we belong to cannot be voted out, shouted down, or worn out. So today, let your prayers grow larger than your circumstances. Ask for his rule to become more visible in you, among us, and through the gospel in the world.

Reflection Questions:

1. Where are you most tempted to believe that “what I see right now” is the truest thing?
2. How does Daniel’s vision of Christ’s everlasting dominion challenge your fears this week?
3. What would change in your praying if you approached Jesus as the reigning King, not a last resort?

Prayer:

Father in heaven, you have given dominion and glory to your Son. Forgive us for living as if your kingdom were fragile and your rule were distant. Steady our hearts with the certainty that Jesus reigns even now. Teach us to pray with confidence, and to obey with quiet courage. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Tuesday: The King Has Come Near

Scripture Reading:

Mark 1:14-15

Devotional:

Jesus' first announcement is both bracing and kind: the kingdom of God is at hand. That means God's saving reign has arrived in the person of Christ. The King does not merely send a message. He sends himself.

Notice what Jesus pairs together. If the kingdom is near, then repentance and faith are near, too. The doorway into the kingdom is surrender to the gospel. This is good news! You do not have to clean yourself up to be admitted. Christ calls sinners. The King's nearness is not meant to crush you, but to rescue you. He comes with authority to command, and with mercy to forgive.

So pray, "Your kingdom come," as a daily returning. Turn from dead-end sins and from the exhausting project of justifying yourself. Turn to the King who draws near to save, and who never turns away the one who comes to him.

Reflection Questions:

1. What sin or pattern has been telling you, "You cannot really come back to Christ"?
2. In what area of life are you resisting repentance because it feels like losing control?
3. What would it look like today to "believe the gospel" in a concrete way, not a vague one?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, you announced the nearness of the kingdom, and you proved it by your mercy. We confess that we cling to our own rule and call it freedom. Grant us repentance that is honest, and faith that is restful. Draw us near to yourself again, and let your saving reign take hold of us. For your name's sake, Amen.

Wednesday: Handing Over the Keys

Scripture Reading:

Colossians 1:13-14

Devotional:

Paul describes conversion as a rescue and a transfer. God delivers us from the domain of darkness and brings us into the kingdom of his beloved Son. Jesus gives us a change of citizenship, a new home address, and a new Father.

And yet, old fears still speak loudly and old sinful habits can continue to resurface as nothing has changed. That is why “Your kingdom come” is not a one-time prayer. It is the daily act of handing over the keys again.

Here is the comfort: Christ’s reign over you is not harsh. The King you submit to is the King who redeemed you by his blood. His authority comes to you through a cross. His rule is not the domination of a tyrant, but the shepherding care of the Savior.

So today, name the places where you have tried to rule yourself. Bring them into the light of Christ’s lordship.

Reflection Questions:

1. Where do you most naturally insist, “My will be done”?
2. What does it mean for you personally that your King rules as the One who redeemed you by his blood?
3. What is one concrete “key” you need to hand over to Christ again today?

Prayer:

Father, thank you for rescuing us and transferring us into the kingdom of your beloved Son. We confess that we still reach for control as if it could save us. Remind us that Christ’s rule is mercy to sinners and safety to the weak. Teach us to surrender with trust, because Jesus has already given himself for us. Through Christ our Redeemer, Amen.

Thursday: The Peace of Christ as King

Scripture Reading:

Colossians 3:12–17

Devotional:

Paul does not tell us to manufacture a new heart by sheer effort. He tells us to put on what God has already given in Christ, and then he says something striking: “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” The word is strong. Let it govern. Let it decide. Let it call the shots.

Many things try to rule us. Anxiety promises protection but only multiplies worry. Anger promises strength but corrodes the soul. Lust promises comfort but leaves shame. Pride promises dignity but makes us brittle and lonely. None of them can actually govern a human heart into wholeness.

Christ can. His peace is reconciliation with God through his finished work. It is the settled reality that we belong to him, and therefore we do not have to be driven by fear or defended by pride.

So pray, “Your kingdom come,” right where you feel most reactive. Ask the Spirit to make Christ’s peace the ruling reality in your mind and body.

Reflection Questions:

1. What emotion most often takes the throne in you when you are tired or pressured?
2. How would your day look different if Christ’s peace, not your anxiety, were “in charge”?
3. What is one situation today where you can practice letting the word of Christ dwell in you richly?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, you are our peace, and we confess that we let lesser rulers govern us. Forgive us for obeying fear and calling it wisdom. Set your peace as the steady king of our hearts through your Word and Spirit. Make our lives a quiet testimony that you reign and that your rule is good. In your name, Amen.

Friday: A Church That Looks Like the King

Scripture Reading:

John 13:34–35

Devotional:

Jesus tells the world to recognize his disciples by love. When we pray, “Your kingdom come,” we are asking Jesus to reign among us as a congregation. We are asking him to form a community where repentance stays near the surface, where forgiveness is practiced, where the weak are not discarded, and where the gospel is both believed and lived out.

This is not natural to us. We carry preferences and pride into the church like suitcases we refuse to set down. We become easily offended, slow to listen, quick to assume the worst. But the King does not merely command love. He also supplies it. He loved us first, and he keeps loving us still.

So today, let this petition aim at your life with other believers. Ask the Lord to make our church life visibly belong to Jesus. Then take one small step of love that costs you something real, because that is how the King is seen.

Discussion Questions:

1. Who in your church life is it hardest for you to love patiently and sincerely?
2. What “suitcase” of pride, preference, or suspicion do you most need to set down?
3. What is one concrete act of love you can take this week that reflects Christ’s love for you?

Prayer:

Father, thank you for placing us into the household of your Son. Forgive us for treating the church as a place for our preferences rather than a people shaped by your grace. Pour Christ’s love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, and make it visible in our words and actions. Build among us a unity the world cannot explain, so that Jesus is honored. In his name, Amen.

Saturday: Not Yet, But Surely

Scripture Reading:

Philippians 2:9–11

Devotional:

We live between the King’s victory and the King’s visible triumph. Jesus has already been exalted. His name is already above every name. And yet we still wait for the day when what is true in heaven is openly confessed on earth, when every knee bows and every tongue acknowledges his lordship.

That “not yet” can feel heavy. We watch suffering linger. We watch sins cling. We watch the world rage. Sometimes we even feel the gap inside our own hearts: we believe, and we still wrestle. But the waiting is filled with promise.

The future of the kingdom does not rest on the church’s competence, or your personal strength, or the stability of your circumstances. It rests on the Father’s exaltation of the Son. History is headed toward a confession: Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

So pray, “Your kingdom come,” as a hopeful longing. Ask for perseverance in the present. Ask for courage to obey while you wait. And ask for joy that does not depend on good circumstances, because it is anchored in the certainty of the King’s return.

Reflection Questions:

1. Where do you feel the “not yet” most painfully right now?
2. How does the promised confession of Christ’s lordship reshape what you call “winning” or “losing”?
3. What act of faithfulness is God putting in front of you today while you wait for the kingdom’s fullness?

Prayer:

Father, you have highly exalted your Son, and we praise you for the certainty of his final triumph. We confess that waiting can make us weary and fearful. Strengthen us by your Spirit to persevere with steady hope. Keep our eyes on Christ's finished work and coming glory, and teach us to pray for your kingdom with longing and trust. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.