

(Matthew 6:31-34, NIV84)

"So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

How many times over the past three months haven't we thought to ourselves: "When will this all end?" The restrictions placed on us due to COVID-19, the images of destruction and rebellion that we see daily in the news, the violence, the hatred, the discord, the death, when will it all end?

As far as I am aware, we all are well-fed, with plenty to drink, and well-clothed, so we may not be asking: "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" Still, among us, there is a lot of worrying going on about "tomorrow," not just for the day after today, but ALL our tomorrows.

Don't think for a minute that our heavenly Father doesn't see what is happening around us. Don't think for a moment that our heavenly Father doesn't know exactly what we need for each and every day of our lives. He does and He will give us ALL the things we need WHEN we need them.

Still Jesus says, "Do not worry." To be sure, "Each day has enough trouble of its own." In this regard, past performance IS indicative of future results. Each day WILL bring trouble, just as each day has brought its own troubles. Nevertheless, do not worry.

Here is the sure way to preempt worry: "Seek first [God's] kingdom and his righteousness." God's kingdom is a spiritual kingdom. Jesus reigns on the throne of our hearts by faith. Faith looks to Jesus with the confidence that His strength is made perfect in our weakness and that He will not lead us where His grace cannot keep us. Seeking that kingdom means looking daily to Jesus and looking AWAY from anything or anyone that would presume to usurp His throne.

Likewise, God's righteousness is an unearned and undeserved righteousness, which He attributes or credits to us because of the meritorious works of our Savior Jesus Christ. Again, seeking that righteousness means looking daily to the perfect obedience of Jesus and looking AWAY from our own efforts or worthiness, as though these are something that God figures into the equation of our salvation.

Whether we are talking about today, tomorrow, or eternity, there is no need for us to worry. Jesus loves us and has us in the palm of His hand. He will not fail to bless us, but will see us through... all the way to the end.

Resting assured with you in Christ,  
Pastor Golm

P.S. Just another reminder: we will resume in-person services at Messiah THIS SUNDAY, June 21st at 9:30 a.m. Ladies, get out your Easter bonnets! We will be having a celebration of the resurrection of our Lord. We will not be having an Easter breakfast this Sunday, but we will be fed with Word and Sacrament. I hope to see you there!

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June 18

The Patterned Life

We know that all things work together for good to them that love God. Romans 8:28

Our lives are in the hands of God as an unfinished carpet is in the hands of a weaver. All the smaller threads which to us seem very unimportant are being gathered together by the busy hand of God and woven into place. Though the color of an individual thread may seem unpleasant to us, we know that later it will appear as a beautiful strand in the carefully planned design which God is weaving.

Luther once said: "The ways of God are like a Hebrew book, which can only be read backward." God's ways cannot be understood by those who demand an explanation of his purpose as he deals with us from day to day. Rather we must wait patiently until his purposes have been accomplished, and then, beginning at the end, look back down the years to see his gracious will unfolding. Only then are his fatherly leadings revealed clearly before our eyes.

But what a comfort to know that, through Christ, the pattern he is weaving is the pattern of infinite compassion! What a comfort to know that throughout our lives there is a heavenly harmony, and that the Author of this harmony is the Lord of love and mercy!

What a source of faith and courage to know that everything that comes our way-be it calamity or success, pain or pleasure, joy or sorrow, health or

sickness, poverty or wealth-everything has its place in the orderly pattern of God's providence and therefore must work together for our good!

Knowing this, let us walk with God by faith until he permits us to walk with him by sight. We have his Word that all things are working together for our good.

Lord, give us such a faith as this, And then, whate'er may come,  
We'll taste e'en here the hallowed bliss Of an eternal home.

(Devotion from: Daily Walk With God - Meditations for Every Day, by Herman W. Gockel)