

## Scripture Reading

### A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke (Luke 17:20-21)

Asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He said in reply, "The coming of the kingdom of God cannot be observed, and no one will announce, 'Look, here it is,' or, 'There it is.' For behold, the kingdom of God is among you." The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

## Reflection – The Kingdom of God is in our midst

**The Kingdom of God is in our midst (cf. Luke 17:21).** Although the Kingdom of God is in our midst, its fullness has yet to come. The Kingdom of God is where Christ is present, and it is in the hearts and minds of believers who prove their love for and allegiance to God by adhering to His Commandments and teachings. Thus, Christ came in His First Coming to claim back God's Kingdom by winning hearts, minds and souls to God's sacrificial and indomitable love. Through His Supreme Sacrifice on Calvary, Jesus gives a solid testament of God's deep love for His creatures. The ancient Jews expected the promised Messiah to come as a strong military ruler to free by physical force Israel from the ruling Romans. However, riding peacefully into Jerusalem on a donkey, Jesus presented a very different image of the Messiah to that held in the minds of the ancients Jews. Wherever Christ is, there is the presence of the kingdom of God. However, hearts and minds hardened by the burden of sin and lack of faith are unable to seek or recognize the divine presence of Jesus Christ, in Whom the fullness of God is pleased to dwell. Do we seek, adore, reverence and treasure the real presence of Christ in our Sacraments?

### Through our allegiance and obedience to God's will and His Commandments, we help God's Kingdom to grow in our midst.

The Kingdom of God is growing, slowly but surely. It is like a seed planted by a man (cf. Mark 4:26-29). The seed grows day and night though the planter knows not how. And soon it is harvest time. With every loving thought, kind word or charitable deed, we bring the Kingdom of God nearer. Our prayers, sacrifices and good deeds offered to God in a spirit of love, adoration and reparation can be likened to the water and sunlight that the plant needs in order to develop further. Thus, St Paul exhorts us to work on building up God's Kingdom and not for the corruptible treasures of this passing world which cannot withstand the test of God's judgement on the last day. *If anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw, the work of each will come to light, for the Day will disclose it. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each one's work (1 Corinthians 3:12-13).*

**The fullness of God's Kingdom will come when God puts all things under the feet of Christ (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:24).** The last enemy to be destroyed is death. *When everything is subjected to Him, then the Son Himself will [also] be subjected to the One who subjected everything to Him, so that God may be all in all (1 Corinthians 15:28).* This will constitute full and final union with God so that God maybe all and in all. This is what Jesus prayed for in His high priestly prayer on the night He was arrested. He prayed for His followers that "they may all be one, as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me." (cf. John 17:21). In perfect union with God, we will participate fully in His eternal life, His glory, His love, His joy, His eternal blessedness. It will be a heavenly life of love, peace, joy and wonder that we have never experienced before, that only God can give. The deepest longing of our inmost being will be fulfilled.

**Heaven truly exists.** *In My Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to Myself, so that where I am you also may be (John 14:2-3).* Clearly, heaven is a definite place. Its street is paved with gold (cf. Rev 21:21). The fullness of the Kingdom of God is more than a spiritual condition in the hearts and minds of believers. *All of us, gazing with unveiled face on the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, as from the Lord Who is the Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:18).* St Paul tells us that in the fullness of time we will be able to gaze directly with our own eyes on the glory of the Lord and at the same time be transformed into Christ's image from glory to glory! The Transfiguration gives us a foretaste of Christ's glorious Second Coming, when He will change our lowly body to be like His glorious Body! (CCC 556).

**Conversation with Jesus:** Precious Lord, through my Baptism, I am given a share in Your priestly, kingly and prophetic offices. Through the Sacrament of Confirmation, I am made a soldier of Christ. I pledge my allegiance to Your will and all things united to Your will on earth. Through my life lived out in imitation of Yours, give me all the graces I need to fight valiantly to help save all souls that reject Your hand of mercy so that in the fullness of time when Your power pervades all things and all that oppose the salvation of God's children are placed under Your feet, God's Kingdom will have no empty places. Mary, Refuge of Holy Love, pray for us. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus. [www.twohearts.hk](http://www.twohearts.hk)