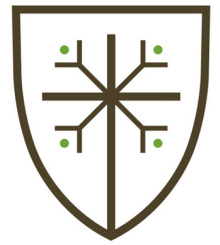


SERMON NOTES



The Lord's Prayer

Fall Sermon Series

September 24, 2023

SERMON INFO

TITLE

Prayer's First Ask

PREACHER

Rev. Josh Keller

TEXTS

Isaiah 48:1-2, 6-11

Philippians 2:3-11

Matthew 5:13-16; 6:9-13

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you find is the "gravitational center" of your soul around which your prayers orbit?
2. How is simply going to worship on Sundays an act of hallowing God's name? Why might the culture around us think this a strange practice?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

This week, Josh Keller lead us in considering the first petition in the Lord's Prayer – "hallowed by Thy name." What does it look like to hallow something, specifically, to hallow God's name?

Gravity

The word "hallow" means to treat as significant, weighty, or ultimate. It is particularly connected to the Hebrew word "kavod" meaning glory or weightiness. In physics, the weightiness of an object is directly related to its gravitational pull. And the closer you are to something, the greater the strength of the gravity. We each have a gravitational center of our soul – that to which our thoughts are drawn. And prayer illuminates our gravitational center. We pray in regards to that defines that center. When it is threatened, prayer comes quickly and easy. We pray in hopes that the Lord will preserve it. God wants us to ask for all those things, and we see this in the later petitions in the Lord's Prayer. But first, we are to ask for him, his name and his presence, that they would become the gravitational center around which the rest of our lives and our prayers would orbit.

Name

When we pray that God's name would be hallowed, we are asking that he would solidify and strengthen his reputation in our life. Because with any name automatically comes an image associated with it. We see in our Old Testament passage that Israel claimed God's name but dishonored him, damaging that image. But despite this, he redeems them for his name's sake in order that he might maintain his faithfulness to his people.

God does the same for us in Christ. He emptied himself, associating his name and reputation with the humiliation of the cross in order that we would not be cut off, in order that we and those who believe throughout the world would be able to know God as Father.

And so our first prayer is that we would hallow his name in our worship, our prayers, and our lives. And that through that, God would continue to be at work making people know him as Father. As our souls begin to center on that we can look not only to our own interest, but the interest of others just as Christ did for us.