

NATIONAL COMMUNITY CHURCH

March 04, 2018

Daily Bread – The Lord's Prayer

Joel Schmidgall

Audio: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Pastor Joel: It was the young pastor's daughter that noticed her father every time before he would get up to preach he would bow his head. And so she asked him, why do you do that? He was proud that she actually noticed she was paying attention to his messages. And he said I'm glad you asked and he said what I'm doing is I'm asking that God would make this a great sermon for the people of God. And she said awe that's really neat, Dad. Why doesn't God ever answer that request? I feel like I need to pray a little longer for my sermon you know, God help me, it kinda puts me on the defensive a little bit.

But I wonder, I want to ask a simple question today and that's this...what is the content of your prayers? Or put it this way what's the most common prayer that you pray? Maybe you're like me where for a long time when I was exploring faith I didn't actually have, call it a prayer life. I didn't really pray that often and after a couple of years I decided I probably need to start doing that. So, I got up one morning early and I prayed for like 10 straight minutes, it was hard but it felt good afterward. And then the next morning I got up early and I prayed for about three straight minutes and then the next morning got a pray for one minute I felt like I had prayed for everything In the entire world I had nothing left to say. Has anybody ever felt that like, ok I prayed it all and like what do I do now? Go back through the list again? My prayer muscles had not grown at all yet. And one of the disciples comes along in the scriptures and I think he feels kind of the same way that I felt because he comes to Jesus then he asks this question, he says, 'teacher or rabbi teach us how to pray'. And that's when this statement comes out 'Our father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. And then he says the line that we're going to dissect today, give us this day our daily bread.

What is the content of your prayers? We shift gears today and for the past three weeks we've looked at the first three petitions of the Lord's Prayer and we see them all in line they're all speaking to God the Father. We prayed hallowed be thy name, we prayed thy kingdom come and we prayed thy will be done but now we shift gears to kind of a second level of prayer. We've gone from God the Father and now we shift over to praying over ourselves and over those around us. The first three stanzas as can be broken down into one key preposition, thy, right, thy name, thy kingdom, thy will. The second three stanzas of this can be broken down into one key preposition, us, give us, forgive us, lead us. And I don't think this is haphazard, I don't think this is by accident that the order... I think this is divinely ordered that Jesus knew exactly what he was saying in the right order in which it needs to be said because he starts with Our Father. It's a relationship building statement, isn't it? You're stepping into a relationship with God and then you're saying hallowed by thy name, you're calling out who God is. He is the Great, Almighty

Creator of the heavens and the earth and then out of that flows this opportunity to share our needs, to share what we need before the Father.

If you're like me you tend to pray things that are your interests right. Like what's your most common prayer or what's the content of your prayers? If you're like me I often naturally lean back into things that I want. That's what I want to pray for, what I want. Well ok, I'm gonna pray, well, what do I want, let's see, what do I need right now? And it's almost like I put together a grocery list, right. You get your little paper, alright what do I need? Alright, God, I need this from you, I need that. And it's like we put together our list of demands but listen, imagine this imagine, because this is not we're not talking about a religion, right, you know y'all, we're not trying to build a religion here, did you know that? We're working on what? A relationship, not a religion. Okay if you put it in those terms, let's take our prayer life and transfer it into another relationship in our life. So say I came to Nina, I said Nina and every time I talk to her I told her what I want. Or I gave Nina a list of demands every time I talk to her. Could you imagine how that went? I'd be doing a lot of couch sleeping. And then I think the couch would end up out on the porch and it would not go well if that's what I did. Just transfer your prayer over to one of your relationships with that other in your life. Maybe it would look something like this like, ok, your love is real to me if you make me dinner, right, because we kinda do that with God sometimes, right. Ok, God if you're real then give me that job. Don't we do that? Oh, you didn't give me the job, well he's not real. Your love is real to me if you make me, oh you're not going to make me dinner, ok your love is not real then. You know we get all ticky tack but transfer this relationship. Now do this, take the Lord's Prayer and how he taught us to pray and transfer that over to your relationship, over to a relationship with another. It would look something more like this hey Nina you are an amazing wife. As mom in this house, I hope you get respect today and I'm here to work alongside you to make sure our family mission gets accomplished. By the way, you think you can make us some dinner tonight? I learned a little bit, right. Now we're talking, that's a relationship. Jesus teaches us how to enter into relationship with almighty God but he cares about your needs. In your significant relationships you know those people care about your needs and you know you care about their needs. But it's give and take, its relationship with the other person. We can't allow ourselves to speed through prayer like it's a shopping list of demands for God.

Scripture teaches us to seek ye first the kingdom of God and all these things shall be added unto you. If you properly care for your spouse wonderful things will come your way. If you properly respect and honor God all his benefits will come in the backstroke, it's a beautiful thing. During these day of prayer, I pray that you don't forget those first three stanzas of the Lord's Prayer. We've got to pray to his glory, to his honor, we've got to live out his will in our lives and when we do he pours blessing out on us. Give us this day our daily bread. Listen, I love this prayer, you know why? Cause it's talking about food, right.

Early in our marriage, we read The Five Love Languages together. Anybody read The Five Love Languages? Yeah, it's a great book. And as Nina read it she astutely made this observation to me, she said I think my love language, I think its words of affirmation and acts of service. She said how about you? I said I think I know exactly what mine is, its food. She said, what are you talking about? It's not a love language. I said it just depends on what dialect you speak and I happen to speak New York strip. That's what speaks to me, that's my love language that's all you,

like I get a steak and I'm good, everything else is fine, that's all I need. I remember a couple of years ago I went out with a buddy and we went to a kinda of a nice restaurant and we sat down and he did one of these, he said, hey, bring us some of that bread, that good bread. So, they bought the bread and it was this amazing, it was like a honey focaccia bread that was like kind of crispy but it bounced, you know and it was so good and we just crush that thing, I mean we put it away. I remember he made this statement after that and I just kind of oddly stuck with me because it's just kind of an off-handed statement he said you always know how good of a restaurant it is based on how good their bread is and so whenever I go to a restaurant and they bring the bread out and you want it ok what is to come? And I love that statement you know how many of us are hungry for lunch now did I just do that to us? But I love that statement because I think Jesus comes and says go ahead ask the Father; go ahead ask him for some of that bread, right. Get some of that bread because that bread is just a taste tester of what is to come. You're gonna taste that bread and you're going to know that you are in the right place.

I want to come back to that bread but let's break down each part of this. I just want to exegese and kind of analyze each word of this prayer today. And so it starts with the word give, it's the Greek word 'didomi' and that means to give or to grant. Pastor Mark said this, he said God is more offended by the prayers that you don't pray than by the prayers that you do pray. And don't we do that we make decisions for God? I think he can or can't do this or I think he will or he won't do this and so I put him in his place and then I'll act according to how I have evaluated God and what he will do. But Jesus says, he says, come to me and ask. In Matthew chapter seven he says ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be open to you. For everyone who asks receives, the one who seeks finds and the one who knocks the door will be open. Which of you if your son asks for bread will give him a stone or if he asks for a fish will give him a snake? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him? It's God's desire to provide, do you know that? He is a father who loves to give good gifts to his children.

And this week for us it's been kind of a challenging week. We're kinda going through something right now and our best friends, our families best friends are moving across the country and it's a bit of uprooting in us it's kind of been a little bit painful. And you know all five of us from the parents to the kids it's like our whole five is their whole five best friends. And so it's something that's really unique for us and I told Pastor Mike, I said man you know I don't know that that we'll ever lose something to this significance in relationship for our family for the rest of my life I don't think we'll have this again and for it to be lost. And so it's been a really, if I'm honest with you, it's really difficult. We're having a hard...we're kinda struggling with it. And down the line, we're hurt a little bit and so when we go to God in prayer we're talking this through. We have relational needs in our life and what's happening right now is this is being uprooted and we feel like this provision is being taken away God and we don't know what to do. And so here's what we're trying to do this, listen to what we're trying to process. We have to ask the question before God. What do I know is true of God? We got to come back to that question because when your mind starts playing tricks on you or maybe not even tricks when you're dealing with the reality that is in your life sometimes you got to begin to declare the Word of God. What does the word of God say? Psalm 23 says this; 'the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want'. The New Living says, 'the Lord is my shepherd, I have all that I need. He provides all of our needs, not

just a piece of bread. What does the bread represent? We'll get into that. He provides for all our needs. So our family is going through an emotional roller coaster this weekend, I'm telling you something, it's all over the place. But we're trying to ask this question. What do I know to be true of God? My God has been faithful, my God has been consistent, my God is good, he has never failed me, he is always there for me, he is always with me, my God never leaves nor forsake me. His word calls it sufficient grace. I love that phrase, sufficient not too much, not too little, just what you need, just enough, just enough to get you through this day. Where are you short today? In your life where are you short today? Where do you need to come to God and ask the Father for his daily bread? He's a Father who desires to give good gifts and he wants to give those to you today.

I got an email from one of our volunteers and just talking about God's provision I asked them if I could read it and they said yes. And here's what they said, 'hello Pastor Joel I've been praying for more than a year for a home in a new school district for the opportunities for my child that are needed for their learning. I've been searching tirelessly this spring in an effort to make the move before the new school year. Contemplating compromise when I knew what I wanted and needed I prayed this prayer one Sunday in June as I talked myself out of coming to the altar. You then said that you had prayed that there would be gifts at the altar for those who had faith enough to step out. I knew this final call was for me I came down. I knew that I had to give it all to God and trust he would provide. I immediately begin searching for a home with anticipation. The Wednesday after the altar call I found it, made an offer, shortly after, my offer was accepted even though it was below asking price. That's a D.C. miracle right there. My gift was at the altar. How could I doubt a God who had never failed me? We moved in the last week and my child was able to start at the new school. Thank God for his provision. God is faithful. Now, here's a checkpoint in this point. Are we praying for thy will or for my will?

I just gonna digress for a moment off-notes. Often times we think we're praying for thy will but remember what the scripture said in Matthew chapter seven? That we by nature are evil and we underestimate how much we have allowed culture into us and even if it's a good thing that you're praying for is it my will or thy will? Just because something can be perceived as good doesn't mean it's the will of God for your life. Checkpoint as you allow the conviction of the spirit is it thy will or my will?

So give first and then it says give us, it doesn't say give me my daily bread, does it? I want it for me, no says give us our daily bread. This word is us is a reflection of the collective, not just you there has to be a collectiveness to what is given to us. The more Jesus shares the loaves and fishes the more the loaves and fishes were multiplied. The more he gave the more God gave. Do you know that's a principle that is talked about his scripture, it says give and it shall be given unto you? Can I just, I'm in a digressing mood today, I'm sorry. One of my dreams as a church is that we just start to finish each other's statements when we talk scripture. I just pray that and sometimes I try to say the same scriptures, sometimes I just stop too to give you a little prompt to go ahead and take it from here. Give and it shall be given unto you because there is power in declaring the Word of God not just in hearing but declaring it through your own mouth. Give and it shall be given unto you a good measure, press down shaken together, overflowing into your life. I decided to go quickly there because I didn't want you to feel pressure, that's a hard one. Overflowing into your lap. What does that mean? When I give God always out gives me. Jesus

gave the loves and the fish and what came back? More than he had actually released. Oooh, when we give God pours back into our lives. My voice is still coming back that sounded like the sixteen year Joel right there. Ooooh, God pours back in our lives. God always out gives us; you can never out give God. He often gives us more than is needed for us so that we go ahead and give to the people around us.

You know I do this little thing with my kids where I'll give one kid three cookies and the other two kids no cookies. What am I trying to do? Come on get underneath the service with me. What am I trying to do? I'm trying to show favoritism, that's right; whoever my favorite kid come on parents where are you at? You know you got a favorite. There's no kids in here, right, they're all out, they're all out. Oh, oh no I'm just playing, I'm kidding. Well, you are the favorite, what are you talking about? I give them three because what? I want him, I want them, actually that's not true no I'm just kidding, it might be, alright, I don't know how to get out of this. I love all my kids, this is being taped. I'll give three because I want them to learn how to share that when they get a good gift it's not just for them. And then they have to disperse it and I'll hang around and that's how we learn to show were given more and then we've got to share. Now it doesn't always work, does it? You might say that man, that's a great idea, you are a great parent, no, because sometimes it ends up with a kid just had three cookies and the other kids are crying because they didn't get any cookies, right. Here's the thing though God as he looks at us sometimes I think he has the same moments, where he gave somebody abundantly and then he turns back around and that person took all the abundance for themselves and the other people around them are crying out to God that they got nothing. Hey, we can say we can agree with that point today but listen, who's got a couple extra cookies in their pocket? Who's got a couple cookies in your pocket and God didn't give you those cookies for you somebody else around you is waiting for the blessing that God decided to flow through you so graciously, that's not all just for you. He gives us the collective us, give us this day or today can be this day or today give us today or give us this day. It's translated as this coming day or time or occasion. It's the Greek word is *ti méra*. The same word that is used in II Corinthians 6:1 & 2 where it says 'today is the day of salvation'. And that's a whole part of this thing that the bread of God is salvation to us. That this is the gift of salvation that where ever you're at, whatever you need, whatever provision you have God has good gifts for you and the first and foremost gift is salvation, we called that out last week. And you know what he says about salvation? "Today is the day!" No, it's not tomorrow, it's not next week it's not some time in the future if the Lord has stirred faith in your soul and your being don't wait for a future date, by faith through grace step out in faith today is your day. "Today is the day of salvation." He invites you to come into his grace, to enter into a relationship with him.

I believe we have lost the art of waiting in the church, we don't know how to wait on God anymore. And we have this text message relationship with Jesus, right, or a quick phone call. But I know this you're not going to get any wisdom from your grandma over text. Am I right? Have you ever texted with your grandma? Have you ever anybody taught their mom or grandma how to text? Come on let me see those hands, yeah, right. It's the most frustrating experience of your life. I think we got a grandma interaction up here behind me, like that you try to teach something and somehow it just does not get through. There's no wisdom that comes through texting with your grandma or through a quick phone call. Starting to set in, isn't it? Every one of us has had one of those, right. If you go to your grandma's house you get a tall glass of ice tea, you sit on the rocking chair out on the porch with nothing to do you're going to get some wisdom there. I

guarantee you will suck in some wisdom from your grandma if you go do that. But listen God doesn't want a text message relationship with us. We come to God in prayer and we said blah, blah, blah here's what I need. Okay, that's it ok. No, that's not going to work I need this or we have a quick phone call, ok God here's what I need blah, blah, blah. Amen. Bam! And that's how we converse with God. That's not a relationship, no that's not, I'm not even going to say it I have to stop. That's going to just take, to go just get our needs fulfilled. You know where I'm going with that. He invites us into true relationship with him, to enter into conversation. There's something that happens when you sit with the Father. There's something that happens when you get on your knees and you don't leave that. We lost the art waiting. We get on our knees and we don't get up until we grab a hold of the garment of praise that God has given until we grab a hold of the revelation. There's this old word called tarry that I love to come back to every once in a while. How do we wait on the Lord? How do we tarry in the Lord's presence where God has a gift for us? But we come and send a text message and it doesn't come, sometimes you got to get in the altar, sometimes you got to get in your prayer closet, sometimes you got to get down on your knees and you're not going to get up until you get that revelation, you're not going to get up until you get that bread, you're not going to get up until you get that, that blessing from the Lord that he wants to give you. Jacob in the Old Testament, he wrestled with God. How long? All night long. And he wouldn't let go of the presence of God until the blessing poured over his life. We need to learn and remember how to wait on God. He's got a blessing that he wants to pour over us and today is that day.

Matthew chapter six; do not worry the scripture says, God takes care of the lilies of the field and the birds in the air, do not worry I will take care of you. I think I used to think the opposite of faith was doubt, I don't think that's true anymore. I think because my doubt has actually assisted my faith. Every time I dig into doubt it forces me to dig more into the scriptures and it actually deepens my faith. Doubt has assisted my faith isn't that interesting? I don't think that's the opposite of faith, I think the opposite of faith is worry because it's active on belief in God. Tim Keller, let's see if I can get back on here, he says worrying is believing God will not get it right. More people die of worry than die of work. We let worry get a hold of us, but no, the Lord says step into faith. Give us this day our daily bread, daily is the word epiousion means sufficient for today. God doesn't say give us this week our weekly bread, give us this month, give us this year our yearly bread. That's what we want, right. Just go ahead and pour it out, I'll take care of it, God, I got it just pour your blessing out on us and I'll do a good thing with it. No, he says give us this day our daily bread. I wonder if it's because he's trying to keep us In a relationship, you know. He tries to keep us coming back constantly. He always provides but we've got to keep coming back to cultivate that relationship. Jesus says pray for our daily bread, not our daily dessert. I like cake. He doesn't say come and pray for cake, no, cake has sugar, sugar actually does worse to your body it's not a complex carbohydrate, right. No, it just feeds those bad things in our system. I need to be careful here I don't want to preach against cake cause we all love cake. I don't want to lose you on this point I don't know. But our tendency is to translate God meeting our needs for God meeting our greed. And we come to God, God I need, I want this, back to thy will or my will. I want this God and God doesn't give it to us and what happens? Come on and I prayed for that and you didn't give it to me, Come on! And it's hey, my kids get angry too and when I don't give them dessert every night, they throw a fit. And we throw these tantrums before God because we don't get what we want, we don't get our greeds but why would God give us our greed? Because that's the exact thing that is killing us. As sugar feeds cancer so

greed feeds the enemy's work in our lives. God's not going to pour things into us that actually break our faith down.

I talked to an NCCer who is in the middle of a struggle and I just asked them to share a little bit of their struggle right now that they're going through. And she said this, she said I've been going through this struggle, I hit a low point when I lost my job with no new jobs coming through and I lost my place and I had no place to live. My family lives on the island and went through the hurricane so I can't live there. I shouldn't have to depend on anyone else but I now have a spirit of brokenness. My prayers are tears. Daily bread is enough to just sustain you for the day. I've learned to pray for small things not just big things. Daily bread has been a peace in God, a calmness that he is with me as I work towards the future. He's the one that has been carrying me cause I feel spent. What's operating in me isn't me, it's his spirit digging for that hope and faith. Anger would say I'm not going to trust you I'm not going to believe but God says put that flesh away, small thinking, that anger way I'm still cultivating something in you. Now I'm still fighting against fear but I'm learning to count my blessings and trust in God. Give us this day our daily bread.

John 6, Jesus then said to them truly, truly I say to you it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. It's a reference back to Exodus chapter sixteen in the Old Testament where Moses had led the Israelites out into the desert and they are starving, they have no food, they have no daily bread. And so God provides what's called manna and manna, it's like a honey wafer almost that is provided every day. And they're supposed to take enough for the day and except for on Friday they can take two days that goes over the Sabbath. And if they take more, if they collect more than that then it starts to go bad and maggots start to eat it up and so they're just supposed to take this portion. But it's the season where God shows up miraculously to give their daily bread, it's a testimony that God has provided. I believe there is, that God gives us physical provision. That's part of what this is that's what we've been talking about but I also think there's a dualistic meaning that he also gives us spiritual provision.

The rest of John chapter six, that next part of the passage says for the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. They said to him Lord give us this bread always. Jesus said to them I am the bread of life, he who comes to me shall not hunger. In other words, Christ is addressing something bigger than a belly pain he's addressing hunger pain. And he's saying, I am the bread of life, the bread is me. I am your sustenance for whatever need you have, any need you have in the world I am your sustenance, come to me. N. T. Wright says when we're praying this portion of the Lord's Prayer we're asking for our desires to be satisfied. God is the deepest desire of our soul. Some of us in this room have never struggled with basic provision. We can get our next meal, we got a place to stay, we got a roof over our head, we're doing okay. So how do we take this scripture and apply it to our lives? You can have bread on your plate but not nourishment in your soul. And you can be successful in life but it doesn't mean that you're fulfilled. Those of us here who are wildly successful can still be motivated by fear; a fear of losing it, or a fear, an insecurity, if you will, a fear that drives us to do those things and everyone can identify with the hunger of the soul. I just want to know it's going to be okay, I just want to have confidence that I'm going to be all right, that what I do matters, that what I do actually has some form of significance to it. We all have that drive to validate self that I want to

matter in life. But God is not interested in your success. He's interested in your fulfillment. And those two things are not mutually submissive to one another. And I'm talking about success as in the world's metrics. Success and fulfillment are not one and the same.

My wife was coaching one of the kids on Thursday, just coaching in life because they were having kind of a hard time with some others at school because these other kids just have more stuff and they got the new technology and got the new accoutrements and have all these things. And so Nina was kind of coaching them through this. Listen there is a richness of wealth that is there for some people. And then a side perspective is if you have a meal and you have a roof over your head you are actually one of the richest people in the world. I can count your blessings. But secondly, okay, in this country there are a lot of people who have more stuff than us and there is a richness of wealth but, but let me tell you something else there's a richness of the soul that is so unique and we have been given this hope and we have been given the goodness of God and the graciousness of God. And you can get stuff if you want to get stuff you can work and you can compile stuff. There are people in this room that can help you get stuff and a richness of wealth. But people spend the entirety of their lives looking for a richness of the soul and we've been given that. Let's remain focused and aware of those things that God is so beautifully given, the bread of life that has been given to us.

Let me just talk to our students for just a minute. Students who are here today there's that thing inside you that says you know if I just got that thing then that would put me in position. Or if I just got that, that place or that position or if I just got that part or if I just made that team or if this thing just happened to me or if that person acknowledge me, or if I dated that person over there and if I just got that thing then everything would be better, right. If you're a student or if you're middle school, if you're in high school you've got that feeling inside of you because then it would just be, then I would just have arrived at that point. I want to tell you something here today I want you to listen to me here today. There are people in this room that are five, that are ten, that are twenty years older than, that are thirty years older than you and they struggled with what you're struggling at your age and they still struggle with that same thing today. It doesn't leave you. That feeling of needing validation and they're just saying if I just got that promotion or if I get just by that house or I get just upgrade to that car or I just had that position. And listen, that thing inside you that lives in there that feels so overwhelming when you're a kid that goes with you unless you learn what the bread of life is. As long as you look for success in the world standard you'll always be chasing after it and you'll never find validation. But when you come before God, God can give you a peace that you can't find anywhere else. I'm here to testify to that. We have some recovering validation addicts who are here today who have come to the foot of the cross, who have come to the foot of Christ and said, God, I'm going to put myself down I'm going to find validation. Today is the day of salvation that I will step into you. That will never go away no matter what you do unless you come to Christ. He says I am the bread of life he who comes to me shall not hunger. Only God can satisfy our deepest desires. Look at the proceeding verse to the Lord's Prayer says this in Matthew 6 and when you pray do not babble like pagans for they that have many words they will be heard. Do not be like them for your Father knows what you need before you ever ask him.

We pray double negatives, God give me that promotion so I'll have satisfaction. Oh no, which one do you want? Do you want the promotion or do you want the satisfaction? Now it's not to

say they can't work together but I'm saying often times they are mutually exclusive from one another. No, to think that you will find satisfaction in the promotion is to think that your hunger will be satisfied in the early wedding hors d'oeuvres. You know what I'm talking about? Pre-wedding you get the hors d'oeuvres, the little hot dog thingy and the little crab and you eat them and man I'm so hungry and then you just, by the time you eat those you're actually more hungry after you ate the hors d'oeuvres than before you got to run out and get something to eat. To look at the promotion is the satisfaction that will fill us up, no; it actually makes you more hungry. Whatever that thing is that you want well actually just magnify the need that is underneath the surface. The promotion magnifies your hunger Christ satisfies your hunger. I'm out of time.

After the Korean War, all these little orphans were left and they went into these orphanages and they had so much trouble helping these kids find a level of peace because they didn't know where the next meal was going to come from even though they give them three meals a day snacks and everything. These kids were scared every night that they wouldn't have something to eat the next day. And so they couldn't figure this out until they did one thing when they would go to bed they would take a piece of bread and they would put it in their hands and let them sleep with it. They knew then that they would have something. They were re-training their minds to know that their daily bread could be counted on. I think for many of us we're in constant worry and active unbelief that God will provide for our daily needs. And what is that daily need that you have today? God can provide. Bring that need to him, let's ask, let's expect of him, let's step into his presence. Today is the day of salvation. That day is here today.

And so I want to invite the worship team to come and we're just going to close with the song today. And the song is called Desert Song. The idea is that when you're out in the desert and you don't know where you're going to get your needs met that you come to Christ and he meets your needs. And so why don't you go ahead and stand with me and we're going to sing this song together. I want to invite our prayer teams to come forward and I just want to open up the altar. I talked about that idea that you know maybe there's a blessing every weekend. I pray that God would pour his blessings down in this altar and for those who have the courage enough to come down and take a step of faith that God would pour a blessing over us. And so if that's you today if you want to come down and just receive in the altar and pray and get on your knees maybe there's some tearing, some waiting that needs to be done. But could we just reach out just for these last few moments that we have here today, could we just reach out into the presence of God?

So we come to you God, thanking you for your Word that is active, that is sharper than any double-edged sword and it pierces us today. So, God, I pray that you would help us to take proper examination of ourselves and may we put faith into action and know that you are a God of provision, a God that who meets every need, will help us to dig deep into our soul and acknowledge those needs that are in us. And then say holy is our God, hallowed be your name, great is our Father and bring our needs to you. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.