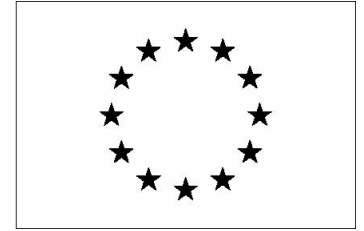


O God of Love, O King of Peace
By Henry W. Baker

(See print copy for music.)



Great Seal of the U.S.



European Flag

The king's heart
is in the hand of the LORD;
he directs it like a watercourse
wherever he pleases.

Proverbs 21:1 (NIV)

(See print copy for art work)



We celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly—and in a circle, at the end of worship. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose.

And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate. **But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.**

Old Orchard Church
June 29, 2014 — 10:15 to 11:50 a.m.

Celebrating Jesus Christ, Lord of Ministering Angels

Bless the Lord, who raises up human magistrates
To secure and maintain justice, righteousness and peace
in a world shattered by greed and violence;
The Lord, who sends his own angel ministers
to move the magistrates of the earth.

So sings the psalmist:

**Praise the Lord you his angels,
You mighty ones who do his bidding;**
So teaches the great apostle of the church:

For the ruler is God's servant

For your good;

And as well,

He is the servant of God

Who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.

Bless the Lord for his kindness to the nations
in revealing his justice;
and through natural and supernatural agents
promoting the common good,
That the peoples may flourish and the earth be refreshed.



Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson: Daniel 10:10-11:1

New Testament Lesson: Romans 13:1-8

Christianity in Ephesus, Christianity in St. Louis Series Sermon

“Parents and Children, Law and Grace, in the Kingdom of God” (Part 2)

Ephesians 6:1-4

Ron Lutjens, lead pastor, preaching

Believers and the Political Order

What has God called us, his redeemed people, to be and to do in this present age for His glory? Clearly He commands worship and evangelism; also He commands godly living. The Scriptures state succinctly the essence of godly living:

And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)

Justice, mercy and faithfulness, Jesus told the hypocritical Pharisees and teachers, are the weightier matters of the law (Matthew 23:23).

“To walk humbly with God” expresses the essence of our personal obligation; it is faithful action arising out of trust in a sovereign God. “To love mercy” captures the central virtue of interpersonal relationships; mercy is freely bestowed kindness. “To act justly” identifies God’s essential requirement for the Christian’s behavior in society.

Justice is what is owed human beings by divine right. Most fundamentally, justice involves moral discrimination between the righteous and the wicked, the guilty and the innocent, that each may be rendered his or her due. **“Acquitting the guilty and condemning the innocent—the LORD detests them both.”** (Proverbs 17:15) **“Shall not the judge of all the earth do justice?”** asks Abraham in his bargain for Sodom (Gen. 18:23-35). The fact that God is Judge of all the earth introduces the idea of justice into the universe at its most fundamental level. Without this reality, the idea of a moral universe dissolves into chaos, and with it the possibility of a just society.

The reality of the world is such that human society must continually strive to preserve and protect the rights of the socially weak, specifically the poor, aliens, orphans, and widows. Scripture frequently records the divine mandate for protective justice:

Cease to do evil, learn to do good;

Seek justice, rescue the oppressed,

Defend the orphan, plead for the widow.

(Isaiah 1:17; see also James 1:27)

The Bible also confirms the obvious fact that executing justice will involve not only case by case decisions but also a structure of instituted laws. **“Woe to those who make unjust laws,...to deprive the poor of their rights and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people....,”** the Lord says. (Isaiah 10:1-2)

Scripture clearly attests to the supreme Judge’s passion for justice in human affairs, leaving no question with regard to our own involvement. Public justice is the social form of love for our neighbor and therefore one of the ways we are obligated to practice our religion. It is no more optional for God’s redeemed people than worship and evangelism....

The founding documents of the United States of America reflect a common commitment to justice and afford Christians the opportunity to influence public affairs....Christians along with all citizens have a right and an obligation to work within the political structure to promote public justice.

—David Jones, Professor Emeritus, Covenant Seminary (1995)