

**“The King Is Coming” – Pr Jim Sprengle**  
**Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) Sunday**  
**October 1, 2023**

I. **Psalm 24:7–10**

II. **The promise of a King goes back to the Garden of Eden.**

- a. Even after those two got us all into trouble by eating of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, God promised them that He would send an heir to redeem them... and all people.
- b. It really is the story of salvation, that the fall into sin would not be the last word... but instead, God would rescue the fallen world and the people in it through a coming King.
- c. When we think of sin... we may not understand just how much it pervades every part of our thoughts, desires, words, and actions... and it is always contrary to God’s will.
  - i. These are the things that come out of all of us because we were given this sin sickness from Adam and Eve.
  - ii. The Bible is full of examples that show the trouble of sin – from the first murder of Abel by his brother Cain... to the evil of society leading up to the great flood and Noah’s ark.
    1. Even in the day of Jesus we see a sinful, wicked people that take part in idolatry, sexual sins, and every kind of evil.
- d. How about today?
  - i. Things have changed very little... as even someone mentioned to me yesterday, “I thought with all the advancements in society and the modern world, that we would not have so many bad things going on all the time!”
  - ii. No, we all struggle to live in God’s will... especially in His desire that we love Him with all our hearts, minds, and strength... and love our neighbors as ourselves.
- e. Besides sin, the Bible also constantly reminds us of something else though... the coming King who redeems us.

III. **The King promised to come through the line of King David.**

- a. Listen again to the words of King David himself in Psalm 24, verses 7-10:
- b. “<sup>7</sup> Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. <sup>8</sup> Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle! <sup>9</sup> Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. <sup>10</sup> Who is this King of glory? The LORD of [armies], He is the King of glory!”
  - i. This Psalm might be a little hard to understand... what are these gates and ancient doors – what does it mean the King comes in?

- ii. Visualize a king coming back from a major battle where he was victorious, and the city gates are opened with joy and excitement because the battle was won, and the people are saved.
- iii. The gates open to receive the victorious king, the one who led the way into battle and came away the champion and hero.
- iv. Now, envision our Savior Jesus, with His battle scars from the cross, His cloak soaked in blood from His wounds, entering into the gates of heaven in victory.
- v. In fact, listen to what St. John writes about Jesus as the victor in his vision of Revelation chapter 19 – “<sup>11</sup> Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. <sup>12</sup> His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems, and He has a name written that no one knows but Himself. <sup>13</sup> He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which He is called is The Word of God. <sup>14</sup> And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following Him on white horses. On His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.”  
(Revelation 19:11-14; 16 ESV)
- c. The great battle to win back the lost has been won – Jesus Christ is the victor of all time, and His death and resurrection is the Good News that proclaims we are no longer subject to sin, or death, or even the devil.
- d. The King has come to pay the debt of sin... and bring all believers home in victory....
- e. Yet, we know that the end time, or the Last Day has yet to come – Jesus intends to return in glory so that all things might be redeemed and restored.

IV. **Until that day, the Church has a job to do...**

- a. We proclaim the Gospel to everyone.
- b. When Jesus came back from the dead and was talking to the disciples on the road to Emmaus, it says that Jesus opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.” (Luke 24:45–49)
- c. And as we have talked about in our Romans Bible study, this proclaiming of the Good news... this power of the Gospel (Rom 1:14-17) means it can save anyone – rich or poor, any race or background, woman or man, or any person who repents and believes in Jesus Christ as their Savior and King.
- d. Truly, the Gospel, the Good News of our salvation through the work of our King Jesus is our only hope.

- i. It's interesting that David wrote this Psalm today by telling these gates and doors to lift up their heads and open for the King... as though they are people.
- ii. In the same way, through God's Word and His grace given us through Baptism and the Lord's Supper, we also can lift up our heads and open our hearts to welcome the victorious King.
- iii. Our hope and blessing is something we get to experience day in and day out, while untold numbers of people around us don't have that same gift.

V. **The world can easily get us down.**

- a. We see the senseless killings of babies, children, and adults... we see the poverty... the homelessness... the addictions and overdoses... and every evil imaginable.
- b. But just as we read throughout the whole Bible... God gives us hope to look beyond the brokenness and sin of humanity and toward the redemption and restoration that only the King of kings can give.
  - i. That is why we go out into the world and share the truth and the hope we have in Jesus our King.
  - ii. We know that He can bring anyone from darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9)... so we go into the world and share His love.
  - iii. The world needs to hear about the incredible love of Christ and His presence with us.
- c. I read a story where a little girl became frightened by a thunderstorm in the middle of the night. Mom and dad comforted her for a little bit, and they reminded her that God was with her always, and they were also right next door. A little while went by and she yelled for her parents again, and when they came in she said, "I know you said God is in here with me, but I need someone in here with skin on them."
- d. As we consider the King of glory in the midst of our dark and sinful world, we see a God with skin on Him.
  - i. A God, who took on flesh and blood... and the sin of humanity in His body... making His way down the road of pain and suffering as He was nailed to the cross... and even dying for the sins of the world.
  - ii. I pray that this LWML Sunday will remind us to be missionaries for the great King – so that all will know Christ.
  - iii. The King is coming, and with Him comes redemption and restoration – praise be to God for our victory in Christ the King! Amen. <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Message based on the sermon from Rev. Dr. Roosevelt Gray, Jr. and the materials from Lutheran Women's Missionary League.