



## PRAYER SERVICE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2021

Join us at 7pm in the Sanctuary or on [Facebook](#) and use this guide to pray along with us.

### • INTRO

Welcome to Prayer Service! Tonight we're looking at Psalm 24, another majestic prayer that will move our hearts to worship. Last week, we reflected on the LORD as our *Shepherd* with Psalm 23. This week, we focus on the LORD as our *King of Glory*. This prayer has three clear sections and two powerful questions: "*Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD?*" and, "*Who is this King of Glory?*" As we answer both of those questions through this prayer, we'll be blessed with a fresh vision of the glory of God and the life to which He calls us. Let's get ready to dig in. Let's pray together.

### • PAUSE

"As I enter prayer now, I pause to be still; to breathe slowly; to re-center my scattered senses upon the presence of God." (Lectio365) *Pause and pray.*

As we read **Psalm 24** together, be open with the parts that confuse or challenge you; meditate on the parts that stand out to you:

***"<sup>1</sup> The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; <sup>2</sup> for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters. <sup>3</sup> Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place? <sup>4</sup> The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god. <sup>5</sup> They will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God their Savior. <sup>6</sup> Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, God of Jacob. <sup>7</sup> Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you 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, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. <sup>10</sup> Who is he, this King of glory? The LORD Almighty—he is the King of glory."***

### • SONGS

#### "King of Kings"

#### VERSE 1

In the darkness we were waiting  
Without hope without light  
Till from Heaven You came running  
There was mercy in Your eyes  
To fulfil the law and prophets  
To a virgin came the Word

From a throne of endless glory  
To a cradle in the dirt

## CHORUS

Praise the Father  
Praise the Son  
Praise the Spirit three in one  
God of Glory  
Majesty  
Praise forever to the King of kings

## VERSE 2

To reveal the kingdom coming  
And to reconcile the lost  
To redeem the whole creation  
You did not despise the cross  
For even in Your suffering  
You saw to the other side  
Knowing this was our salvation  
Jesus for our sake You died

## VERSE 3

And the morning that You rose  
All of heaven held its breath  
Till that stone was moved for good  
For the Lamb had conquered death  
And the dead rose from their tombs  
And the angels stood in awe  
For the souls of all who'd come  
To the Father are restored

## VERSE 4

And the Church of Christ was born  
Then the Spirit lit the flame  
Now this Gospel truth of old  
Shall not kneel shall not faint  
By His blood and in His Name  
In His freedom I am free  
For the love of Jesus Christ  
Who has resurrected me

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### • **PSALM 24:1-2**

***“The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; <sup>2</sup> for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.”***

Stop and think about the power of that statement for a moment: *“The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it...”* It’s such a straightforward, logical truth that we so easily forget (or acknowledge in principle, but fail to actually live out). The One who *created it all* is the One who *owns it all*—the King of all. Everything hinges on whether or not we acknowledge this obvious fact: *it all belongs to God*. But this is not the way of the world; it’s not the way people live since leaving Eden. And so we continue to pray, *“Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”* Because not everyone acknowledges that *the earth is the Lord’s and everything in it*, not everyone lives as if *the LORD is King*.

If *“The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world and all who live in it,”* and we are all just *stewards* of what God has made, how then should we live? How should we care for creation and treat this planet with all its resources? How should we treat our neighbors? How should we treat ourselves? Take a moment to reflect on this: how do I handle my possessions, my resources, my relationships and my life? Do I live as if this Scripture is true, allowing God to be King and Lord of my life? *Pause and Pray.*

- **PSALM 24:3-6**

***“<sup>3</sup> Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place? <sup>4</sup> The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god. <sup>5</sup> They will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God their Savior. <sup>6</sup> Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, God of Jacob.”***

*“Who may stand in his holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart...”*  
If this does not give us pause, perhaps we are not as pure as we think or perhaps we take for granted the cost Christ paid for us to be able to stand in God’s presence. A few weeks ago we reflected on Psalm 19 which finishes with this powerful prayer: *“...who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults. Keep your servant also from willful sins...May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight...”* In the New Testament, Jesus told a parable that contrasted a self-righteous Pharisee and a penitent tax collector who came to the temple to pray. Although the Pharisee followed the letter of the law, thinking he had pure hands and a clean heart, Jesus said that the prayer God accepted was that of the sinful tax collector, who cowered in the back praying, “God, have mercy on me, a sinner.” Jesus summarized, “For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

God provided His people a way to purify themselves and come into His presence through the Old Covenant Law of Moses. All of that foreshadowed the provision of Jesus Christ, who offers God’s grace and forgiveness to the entire world, to all who will accept His gracious gift. We have a way to attain clean hands, pure hearts, and access to God’s holy presence through our savior’s death and resurrection. We can come into God’s wonderful presence, we can seek His face, because Jesus made a way. In the moment we accept his grace, we are saved once and for all; but we also enter a life time of transformation in which he is renewing us, making us “holy as He is holy.” Take time to reflect. Do I have clean hands: do I need to confess a wrong I have done or a right I have failed to do? Do I have a pure heart: do I need to renounce the hold of something that is not of God or receive greater alignment with His heart? Here is the good news: “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” *Pause and Pray.*

- **PSALM 24:7-10**

***“<sup>7</sup> Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you 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, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. <sup>10</sup> Who is he, this King of glory? The LORD Almighty—he is the King of glory.”***

Here we are given the image of a mighty, victorious king returning from battle to take his place among his people, reigning over them in righteousness and justice.

Is there a more fitting reality for this imagery than that of Jesus Christ, our Servant-King and Savior, doing battle with Darkness, laying down His life for us, rising victoriously from the grave, and ascending on High to enter that greater Sanctuary, that heavenly Jerusalem of which earthly temples are only a reflection? *“Who is this King of Glory? The LORD strong and mighty... Who is he, this King of glory?”* Jesus Christ, our risen Lord who reigns above all. He is our King, He is the King of Glory. While the Bible talks about God’s glory and God’s kingship frequently, here in Psalm 24 is the only place this beautiful phrase, “King of Glory” appears. Just take a moment to savor and meditate on this truth. Dwell on this phrase, *“Who is this King of Glory? The LORD strong and mighty.”* *Pause and Pray.*

- **SONG**

**“Crown Him With Many Crowns (Majesty)”**

**VERSE 1**

Crown Him with many crowns  
The Lamb upon His throne  
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns  
All music but its own  
Awake my soul and sing  
Of Him who died for me  
And hail Him as thy matchless King  
Through all eternity

**VERSE 2**

Crown Him the Lord of life  
Who triumphed o'er the grave  
And rose victorious in the strife  
For those He came to save  
His glories now we sing  
Who died and rose on high  
Who died eternal life to bring  
And lives that death may die

**CHORUS**

Majesty Lord of all  
Let ev'ry throne before Him fall  
The King of kings  
O come adore  
Our God who reigns forevermore

**VERSE 3**

Crown Him the Lord of love  
Behold His hands and side  
Rich wounds yet visible above  
In beauty glorified  
No angel in the sky  
Can fully bear that sight  
But downward bends each burning eye  
At mysteries so bright

**BRIDGE**

All hail Redeemer hail  
For He has died for me  
His praise and glory shall not fail  
Throughout eternity

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- **Closing**

***“Father, help me to live this day to the full, being true to you in every way. Jesus, help me to give myself away to others, being kind to everyone I meet. Spirit, help me to love the lost, proclaiming Christ in all I do and say. Amen.” (Lectio365)***