

Sermon followed by Service – Psalm 72 – October 6, 2024

October 3, 2024

Psalm 72

Your sewer backs up. I've got a guy for that. Your furnace breaks down. I've got a guy for that. Your stove, your oven won't work. I've got a guy for that. When something goes wrong, even before it goes wrong, what a relief to know - you have a guy for that. But it gets better.

Your world goes bad; you're wronged, and you need some justice. I've got a guy for that. You go bad; you're wrong, and you need relief from justice. I've got a guy for that. You're feeling squeezed, crushed; you're being torn into, ripped apart. I've got a guy for that. Your guy for this or that doesn't answer. Your guy for this or that drops the ball, falls short, turns out to be a fake and a fraud. I've got a guy for that. You're facing a world of chaos and high anxiety. Put all of that together; I've even got a guy for that.

I imagine you might have a voice inside your head saying: "yea, but." Yea, but - if he's like most all the other guys I've called when I need help, he's probably out of business. Well, no, he hasn't gone out of business. You don't need to worry; he won't go out of business -

**He will endure as long as the sun,
as long as the moon, through all generations.**

Yea, but - I'm probably outside of his service zone; he probably just helps those other people over there. No, you're not outside his service zone. When you need help, you don't have to worry; he's not just the guy for those people over there.

He will rule from sea to sea

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Yea, but - he might have what it takes to help you with your problems, but he can't have what it takes to help me with my problems. You have big problems? You need help in a big way? You need a guy with resources? You don't need to worry. My guy has the riches of the world; my guy has all the resources of the world.

**The kings of Tarshish and of distant shores
will bring tribute to him;
the kings of Sheba and Seba
will present him gifts.**

Yea, but - have you seen what's going on in the world - hurricanes and floods, wars and more wars coming, the elections When you need help and it seems like the world is against you ... when you need help and it seems the world is out of control You don't need to worry; he's the guy you need. He will rule; he will have his way -
**All kings will bow down to him
and all nations will serve him.**

Yea, but - he's probably too busy. With all that's going on, he's probably overwhelmed with service calls, overwhelmed by too many calls for help. With all that's going on he, probably doesn't see me, hear me, remember me. With all that's going on, he can't possibly help everyone. You don't need to worry. Even with all that's going on, he won't be overwhelmed -
**All nations will be blessed through him,
and they will call him blessed.**

It doesn't matter what you have going, my guy will be ready for you. He will be up to whatever you bring him. If this world treats you wrong, my guy has justice for you. "Yea, but" No "yea,

but.” If anybody gets in his way, he’ll have them licking the dust. **He will crush the oppressor.** And not only that, when he works his justice, the wronged will be made right. The cheated will be made whole. The hurt will be healed.

How about this testimonial? “**He [is] like rain falling on a mown field.**” I know that’s not a good October picture, but picture a field of grass, cut, slashed with a sickle on a hot, dry day. The grass is beaten, bruised, cut apart, torn apart. Ever feel like that grass, your heart beaten, bruised, torn apart? And then a cool, soothing rain falls on the grass cooling, soothing, healing - and the brown grass turns green, the dead grass comes to life. That’s what my guy can do for you. If you’ve been wronged, you can be sure of this, my guy will make your life right. He will surround you with life made right.

Picture hills and mountains full of life - the greenest pastures, vineyards loaded with grapes - a farmer, a shepherd, a vintner would say it’s a picture of heaven - all for you! Or maybe sheep and goats and grapes and olives aren’t your thing. Picture a cabin, a house on a lake in the woods up north - quiet and peaceful. Picture your favorite beach with the sun coming up - a beautiful day coming. Or this ... I know some of you are looking forward to snow-covered mountains bright and beautiful, covered with fresh powder; hills dotted with ski lodges. Imagine you’re set up in one of those lodges, a beautiful mountain view off your deck - wow!, a roaring fireplace keeping you warm inside - ah! Imagine a day, a life, of wow and ah - yes, imagine heaven for you! This world might seem so wrong; this world might treat you so wrong; but my guy will work justice for you. He will set you up right - as right as heaven!

Yea, but - but what if you are the one who did wrong? And your excuses aren’t working. And blaming others isn’t working. And

you can't do enough right to make up for your wrong. And the thought of justice doesn't give you hope, but the thought of justice hangs over your head like a curse. My guy has what you need. He has this deal with the judge. He worked it out long ago. He worked it out that he would take the blame for my wrong, for your wrong. He would pay the price for our wrong. He would be crushed and cursed for our wrong. And then he would cover over our wrong with his right. That's what my guy did for me. That's what your guy did for you. When we're wrong, we don't need to be afraid of justice. We've got a guy who has set us right with the justice of heaven.

So who is my guy? You noticed he's no ordinary guy. He's a king, not a dress-up, pretend king, but a ruling king. A king who rules around the world; a king who is worshiped around the world. A king who rules for all time; a king who rules for all people. So he's no ordinary guy. And he's no ordinary King; he's God's King. He's the Guy we need when the world wrongs us. He's the Guy we need when we're wrong. He's the Guy we need when the world rips into us. He's the Guy we need when no one else will answer. Who is he? He's my Guy from God; he's your Guy from God. He's Jesus Christ. God's Guy, God's King for you! Amen.

THE SERVICE

IN OUR WORLD TODAY ... we see so many people hurting and afflicted - some from natural disasters or warfare, others from personal conflicts or breaking and broken bodies.

IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ... we see God's answer - a King. But God's answer for a hurting world, God's solution to make life right, isn't just some king of this world. God's answer is his Forever King Jesus Christ! What does that mean for us? Our answer for a hurting world, our solution to make life right, isn't just some ruler of this world. Our answer is our Forever King Jesus Christ!

OPENING HYMN

"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

Hymn 384

Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.

He comes with rescue speedy to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy and bid the weak be strong,
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light
whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.

Kings shall bow down before him and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him, his praise all people sing.
To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend,
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.

O'er ev'ry foe victorious, he on his throne shall rest,
from age to age more glorious, all blessing and all-blest.
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove;
his name shall stand forever— that name to us is Love.

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves
and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY (SUNG)

CW 174

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST (SUNG)

CW 176

Refrain: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. *Refrain*

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. *Refrain*

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Amen. *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, we praise you for the gracious rule of your Son, Jesus Christ. Let his kingdom come to us and all people so that the whole earth may know his saving help and be filled with your glory. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Colossians 1:3–14

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people— the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel that has come to you.

In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God’s grace. You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

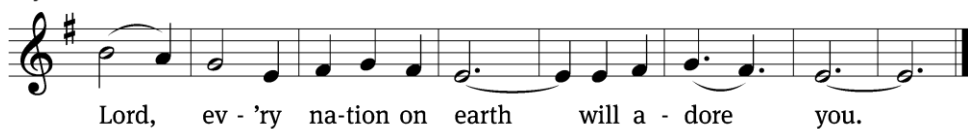
For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 72A

Refrain



Lord, ev - 'ry na-tion on earth will a - dore you.

Tone



Endow the king with your justice, / O God,
the royal son with your / righteousness.
May he endure as long / as the sun,
as long as the moon, through all gener- / ations.

May he be like rain falling on a / mown field,
like showers water- / ing the earth.
In his days may the righteous / flourish
and prosperity abound till the moon / is no more. *Refrain*

May all kings bow / down to him
and all nations / serve him.
Long may he live! May gold from Sheba be / given him.
May the kings of Sheba and Seba pre- / sent him gifts.

May people ever / pray for him
and bless him / all day long.
Then all nations will be / blessed through him,
and they will / call him blessed.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

SECOND READING

Colossians 1:15–20

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 28:18

Alleluia! Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me!" Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 18:36–37; 19:10b–11a

Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place."

"You are a king, then!" said Pilate.

Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

... [Pilate said:] "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?"

Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above." ...

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

HYMN OF THE DAY

Psalms 72B



1 A King on high is reign - ing whom end - less a - ges bless,
2 As rains that gent - ly nour - ish and bring the seed to birth,
3 The poor are in his keep - ing, he hears their bit - ter cry,
4 His name en - dures for ev - er who formed the fer - tile land;



from sea to sea sus - tain - ing his rule of right - eous - ness.
his right - eous - ness shall flour - ish, his peace pos - sess the earth;
his watch - ful - ness un - sleep - ing to an - swer ev - 'ry sigh;
the fruits of our en - deav - or shall pros - per in his hand.



Be - neath his strong de - fend - ing his peo - ple stand se - cure,
her scept-ered kings ac - claim him, be - fore his feet they fall,
the lone - ly and ne - glect - ed, the out - cast and in need,
With prayer and song and sto - ry his prais - es sound a - gain,



whose jus - tice knows no end - ing while sun and moon en - dure.
the na - tions kneel to name him the sov'-reign Lord of all.
for - sak - en and re - ject - ed, to him are dear in - deed.
in all the earth his glo - ry; so be it, Lord! A - men!

SERMON

Psalm 72

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

If you prefer to give online, the code at the right will take you to our Online Giving page. We invite our online givers to join in our offering with an "I Give Online" card in the pew racks.



PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy Church of God throughout the world, that God the almighty Father gather and guide it so that we may worship him in peace and tranquility:

Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. Guide the work of the Church. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your Word, and bring salvation to people everywhere. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for our pastors and teachers and all leaders of the Church, and for all the people of God:

Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the Church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold all who serve you and your people. Keep them in health and safety for the good of the Church. Help each of us to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who do not believe in Christ, that the light of the Holy Spirit may show them the way to salvation:

Almighty and eternal God, enable those who do not acknowledge Christ to receive the truth of the gospel. Help us, your Church, to grow in love for you and for one another, so that we become more perfect witnesses of your love for all people. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who serve in public office, that God may guide their minds and hearts, so that all of us may live in true peace and freedom:

Almighty and eternal God, graciously direct those who have been set in positions of authority among us, so that people everywhere may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray that God, the almighty and merciful Father, may heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, and free those unjustly deprived of liberty:

Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. In your mercy hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

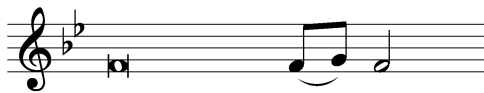
LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE SACRAMENT

(Guests, please see our communion practice on page 2.)

(Gluten-free wafers are available; ask Pastor.)



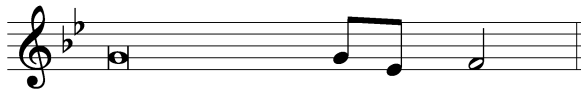
The Lord be with you.



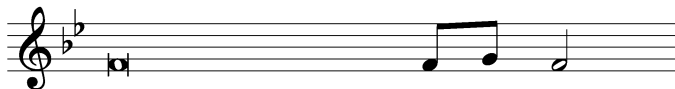
And al - so with you.



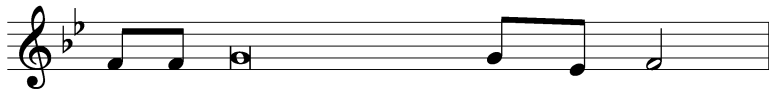
Lift up your hearts.



We lift them up to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (SUNG)

CW 184

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my T body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my T blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.**

JESUS, LAMB OF GOD (SUNG)

CW 186

Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your
peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

“What Is This Bread”

Hymn 665

What is this bread? Christ’s body risen from the dead:
this bread we break, this life we take,
was crushed to pay for our release. O taste and see—the Lord is peace.

What is this wine? The blood of Jesus shed for mine;
the cup of grace brings his embrace
of life and love until I sing! O taste and see—the Lord is King.

So who am I, that I should live and he should die
under the rod? My God, my God,
why have you not forsaken me? O taste and see—the Lord is free.

Yet is God here? Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear,
in mouth and soul he makes us whole—
Christ, truly present in this meal. O taste and see—the Lord is real.

Is this for me? I am forgiven and set free!
I do believe that I receive
his very body and his blood. O taste and see—the Lord is good.

CLOSING PRAYER

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we **proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

"Beautiful Savior"

Hymn 522

Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!

Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee, light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;

Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, he makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,
bright the sparkling stars on high;

Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels in the sky.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!

Glory and honor, praise, adoration now and forevermore be thine!

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