

May 19, 2023



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH EASTER

Photo by Tomas Williams from Pexels

GOD IS KING OF ALL

By Sister Christine Hilliard, CSJ

Psalm 47: God's Rule Over the Nations

*Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with loud songs of joy.
For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome,
a great king over all the earth.
He subdued peoples under us,
and nations under our feet.
He chose our heritage for us,
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.
God has gone up with a shout,
The Lord with the sound of a trumpet.
Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.
For God is the king of all the earth;
sing praises with a psalm.*

*God is king over the nations;
God sits on his holy throne.
The princes of the peoples gather
as the people of the God of Abraham.
For the shields of the earth belong to God;
he is highly exalted.*

PSALM 47 - NEW REVISED STANDARD EDITION

Reflection

This psalm identifies God as “great king of all the earth” and “king over the nations.” Using the political title “king” to name the Creator, the Holy One, seems to beg some explaining for our time and location. In the ancient Near East, there were three duties of a king: war, law and cultic (religious). Social stability was achieved by war, which was meant to protect the state from external enemies. This duty was coupled with the maintenance of internal stability in society by means of a legal system. The cultic or religious duty expressed ritually that the power of the king was a divine power above all others. With the authority of his kingship and civic powers, he was expected to shelter and care for the people first and foremost. In particular within the Israelite kingdom, the king’s role was one of service following God’s desire through all these duties.



The Grand Tetons
Photo by Pixabay / Pexels

For Pondering & Prayer

- What image would describe your experience of God? Pray with that image in mind sometime during the day. [FOR EXAMPLE: With the image of God as a huge mountain range like the Grand Tetons in Wyoming — *“O God, may I lean into your strength this day and be supported in your embrace.”*]
 - Pray for those in civic leadership roles today in our world.
 - How might you positively support political leadership?
-

For Prayer

*Master of the Universe!
You listen to the anguished cries
and desperate wails
of every one of
your beloved children.
you hear my incoherent cries,*

*you comprehend my jumbled words.
I try my best to reach you;
with my inadequate prayers
I call out to you,
and you understand.*

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