

# Our Savior in the Psalms

*a Lenten Midweek Series*

1. Psalm 2 - Our King
2. Psalm 8 - Mankind Defined
3. Psalm 45 - Our Bridegroom
4. Psalm 80 - The Vine
5. Psalm 60 - Our Banner

---

This series is less focused on Lent itself, but rather on using Lenten midweek services as a time to dedicate ourselves more to God's word, in this case, the Psalms. These Psalms, readings, and hymns were planned for the 5 midweek services following Ash Wednesday and before Holy Week.

*Note: The Psalm theme may be continued by preaching on the Psalms appointed for the rest of Lent: Psalm 51 for Ash Wednesday, Psalm 118:19-29 or 31: 9-16 for Palm Sunday, Psalm 116:12-19 for Maundy Thursday, Psalm 22 or 31 for Good Friday, and Psalm 16 for Easter.*

These midweek Psalms were chosen based on a couple of factors: 1. Having a specific symbol or picture of our Savior. 2. More obscure Psalms were favored over popular ones (such as Psalm 23), to teach more about the Psalms in general.

Each Psalm is paired with 2 or 3 other readings to show how this Psalm is either fulfilled by them, or how this Psalm helps explain a theme found later in the life of Christ. For example, John 15 is a well-known passage about Jesus as the Vine. Reading through Psalm 80 helps describe what this means and what Jesus has fulfilled.

Two hymns are recommended for each theme. They come from all seasons, and so omitting certain verses may help focus more on the theme and less on the liturgical context the hymn is typically associated with. If more hymns are desired, it would be fitting to include general Lenten hymns to help view these Psalms through a Lenten lens.

The order of Psalms is not particularly important, but it may be fitting to end with Psalm 60, as it describes the banner to which God's people will rally: Christ Crucified

### **1. Psalm 2 – Our King**

*Overview:* Psalm 2 compares the Lord's anointed King to the kings and princes of this world. It shares with us a feeling of confidence and comfort that our God is not threatened by earthly monarchs but laughs at those who set themselves against him.

*Readings:* Revelation 19 picks up on the same Rod of Iron language originally found in Psalm 2 and further describes this warrior king conquering. The John 18 reminds us that our king conquers in this world by means we do not expect.

*Hymns:* 494 sts. 1,2,5 *See the Lord Ascends in Triumph* is a hymn for the Ascension of our Lord, but paraphrases language of Psalm 2 and paints a picture of our conquering king accomplishing his work through the cross. 398 *Hail to the Lord's Anointed* does much of the same thing with Psalm 2 language.

### **2. Psalm 8 – Mankind Defined**

*Overview:* Psalm 8 is a description of humanity as God created it to be: The prized jewel of his creation, even amidst the vast creation of the heavens and earth. Mankind was given dominion over all creation, and though the children of Adam and Eve have failed in their stewardship role, Jesus has fulfilled this by being the perfect servant ruler. Jesus is Mankind Defined how God intended.

*Readings:* Genesis 1:26-27 reminds us the perfection in which God created humanity, male and female, in his image, and that he gave them to have dominion over all the earth. 1 Cor. 15:20-28 teaches how man fell into sin, and how God became man to restore his fellow brothers and sisters. Mark 10:42-45 describes Jesus faithfully having dominion over all the earth, in that he serves it, even laying down his life to redeem it.

*Hymns:* 544 *O Love How Deep* beautifully tells the story of redemption, highlighting the fact that to save man, God *became* man. 389 *Let all Together Praise Our God* describes the idea of the "great exchange", that God became man and bore took our sin, and in turn gives us his righteousness.

### **3. Psalm 45 – Our Bridegroom**

*Overview:* Though marriage is never explicitly mentioned, Psalm 45 has been understood to be about a royal wedding. It describes a handsome, mighty, and righteous King on the throne of God. This king desires a princess, who has been clothed

beautifully. It is a picture of our Lord Jesus, who desires to join with his Church, and clothes our ugly sinfulness with his beautiful righteousness.

*Readings:* Psalm 45 is paired with two traditional wedding texts, Ephesians 5 and Matthew 19. For Ephesians, the reading intentionally begins at the language of the husband to highlight Christ's work above the submission of the Church. In a similar way, the Matthew reading is narrowed down to emphasize how divorce was never God's intention in marriage, and therefore that Christ will never divorce his Church.

*Hymns:* 860 *Gracious Savior Grant your Blessing* matches with the wedding texts, with stanzas 3-5 recommended to focus on Christ and the Church. 644 *The Churches Foundation* uses the language of marriage in describing Christ and the church, especially in stanzas 1, 3, & 5.

#### 4. **Psalm 80** – The Vine

*Overview:* Psalm 80 describes the Church as a vine, that God took of Egypt, cleared ground for, and planted that it might prosper. It describes our turning away from God, and the suffering this brings, but that God will have regard for this vine. He will restore it through the Son of Man.

*Readings:* John 15 describes Jesus as the true vine from which we all as branches receive life. Hosea 14 as a prophet is a call to repentance, and that God will heal those who return to him and they will flourish like a budding vine.

*Hymns:* 540 *Christ the Word of God Incarnate* in stanza 3 describes Jesus as a new shoot from the stump of Jesse that will sprout forth new life for his branches. 611 *Chief of Sinners* fits in with the theme of repentance, and also acknowledges our being branches to the vine of Christ.

#### 5. **Psalm 60** – Our Banner

*Overview:* Psalm 60 describes a battle, where God's people are being defeated, but are rallied to a banner God has set up, and that he then grants victory. As the scriptures unfold, it becomes clear this banner is Christ Crucified for our sins.

*Readings:* Isaiah 11 speaks of this banner or signal being lifted up for the nations to see, and that it is none other than from the root of Jesse, a clear Messianic mark. 1 Corinthians connects this to Christ crucified, and the importance of us rallying to it as our power. In John 3, Jesus compares his being lifted up to that of the bronze serpent, that all who look to him will have eternal life.

*Hymns:* 453 *Upon the Cross Extended*, particularly sts. 1, 2, 6, & 7 describe looking up to Christ crucified and finding life. 837 *Lift High the Cross* is a battle hymn describing Jesus as our banner of conquest. Stanzas 1-4 are recommended to focus on the triumph of this banner without jumping to far ahead to Easter.