

April 17 Su Reading 107 — Psalm 47:1-9 — The King of All the Earth

*To the choirmaster. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah.*

- 1 *Clap your hands, all peoples!*  
*Shout to God with loud songs of joy!*
- 2 *For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared,*  
*a great king over all the earth.*
- 3 *He subdued peoples under us,*  
*and nations under our feet.*
- 4 *He chose our heritage for us,*  
*the pride of Jacob whom he loves. Selah*
- 5 *God has gone up with a shout,*  
*the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.*
- 6 *Sing praises to God, sing praises!*  
*Sing praises to our King, sing praises!*
- 7 *For God is the King of all the earth;*  
*sing praises with a psalm!<sup>[fn]</sup>*
- 8 *God reigns over the nations;*  
*God sits on his holy throne.*
- 9 *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!*

**ESV Footnote**

(47:7) Hebrew *maskil*

**Reasons to Praise** — This is a psalm of exuberant praise to the supremely worthy God. It twice commands us to worship this way: “*Shout to God!*” (v. 1) and “*Sing praises to God!*” (v. 6). We are to be enthusiastic in our worship. Why? The psalmist said one reason was because of what God had done in the past: “*He subdued peoples under us, and ... He chose our heritage for us*” (vv. 3-4). God had given the Promised Land to His people and, especially under David and Solomon, had made them masters over many other national groups. Another reason for praise is because of who God is: “*For God is the King of all the earth*” (v. 7). That is still true today, even though it might not look like it. God is controlling nations and directing history toward its final climax. Although most nations are too self-centered to serve the true King, He is still “*the King of all the earth.*” At the end of the psalm, we are told that another reason we are to praise God is because of His future rule. This looks ahead in prophecy: “*The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham*” (v. 9). They will gather to worship. That has already begun with the Christian era as Gentiles are coming by the thousands to a saving knowledge of Christ and worshiping as “*the people of God.*” God’s family is no longer composed primarily of Jews, and eventually everyone will acknowledge Him as King. Paul quoted these words of God from Isa. 45:23: “*As I live, says the Lord, to me every knee will bow and every tongue will give praise to God*” (Rom. 14:11).

\*\*\*\*\*

*To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. A Song.*

- <sup>1</sup> *God shall arise, his enemies shall be scattered;  
and those who hate him shall flee before him!*
- <sup>2</sup> *As smoke is driven away, so you shall drive them away;  
as wax melts before fire,  
so the wicked shall perish before God!*
- <sup>3</sup> *But the righteous shall be glad;  
they shall exult before God;  
they shall be jubilant with joy!*
- <sup>4</sup> *Sing to God, sing praises to his name;  
lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts;  
his name is the LORD;  
exult before him!*
- <sup>5</sup> *Father of the fatherless and protector of widows  
is God in his holy habitation.*
- <sup>6</sup> *God settles the solitary in a home;  
he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,  
but the rebellious dwell in a parched land.*
- <sup>7</sup> *O God, when you went out before your people,  
when you marched through the wilderness, Selah*
- <sup>8</sup> *the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain,  
before God, the One of Sinai,  
before God,<sup>[fn]</sup> the God of Israel.*
- <sup>9</sup> *Rain in abundance, O God, you shed abroad;  
you restored your inheritance as it languished;*
- <sup>10</sup> *your flock<sup>[fn]</sup> found a dwelling in it;  
in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy...*
- <sup>19</sup> *Blessed be the Lord,  
who daily bears us up;  
God is our salvation. Selah*
- <sup>20</sup> *Our God is a God of salvation,  
and to GOD, the Lord, belong deliverances from death...*
- <sup>24</sup> *Your procession is<sup>[fn]</sup> seen, O God,  
the procession of my God, my King, into the sanctuary—*
- <sup>25</sup> *the singers in front, the musicians last,  
between them virgins playing tambourines:*
- <sup>26</sup> *“Bless God in the great congregation,  
the LORD, O you<sup>[fn]</sup> who are of Israel’s fountain!”*
- <sup>27</sup> *There is Benjamin, the least of them, in the lead,  
the princes of Judah in their throng,  
the princes of Zebulun, the princes of Naphtali.*
- <sup>28</sup> *Summon your power, O God,<sup>[fn]</sup>*

- the power, O God, by which you have worked for us.*
- 29 *Because of your temple at Jerusalem*  
*kings shall bear gifts to you.*
- 30 *Rebuke the beasts that dwell among the reeds,*  
*the herd of bulls with the calves of the peoples.*  
*Trample underfoot those who lust after tribute;*  
*scatter the peoples who delight in war.<sup>[fn]</sup>*
- 31 *Nobles shall come from Egypt;*  
*Cush shall hasten to stretch out her hands to God.*
- 32 *O kingdoms of the earth, sing to God;*  
*sing praises to the Lord, Selah*
- 33 *to him who rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens;*  
*behold, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.*
- 34 *Ascribe power to God,*  
*whose majesty is over Israel,*  
*and whose power is in the skies.*
- 35 *Awesome is God from his<sup>[fn]</sup> sanctuary;*  
*the God of Israel—he is the one who gives power and strength to his people.*  
*Blessed be God!*

#### ESV Footnotes

(68:8) Or *before God, even Sinai before God*

(68:10) Or *your congregation*

(68:24) Or *has been*

(68:26) The Hebrew for *you* is plural here

(68:28) By revocalization (compare Septuagint); Hebrew *Your God has summoned your power*

(68:30) The meaning of the Hebrew verse is uncertain

(68:35) Septuagint; Hebrew *your*

**Serving the Neglected** — Two days ago when we read Psalm 24, I suggested that it might have been written for the event of bringing the ark of the covenant into Jerusalem. Today's Psalm 68, also written by David, seems to have been written for the continuing parade of the ark into the temple ("*Your procession ... into the sanctuary*"—v. 24). Did you notice who was at the front of that procession? It was "*Benjamin, the least of them, in the lead*" (v. 27). This reminds me of the characteristic of God's concern and care for the underdog. The tribe of Benjamin was the smallest of the twelve tribes of Israel and could easily have been neglected, but they were put in an honored position at the front of the parade. There are several indications of that trait of God in this psalm. God is "*Father of the fatherless and protector of widows*" (v. 5). Orphans and widows tend to be neglected in today's busy and selfish society. The Timothy Initiative ([The Timothy Initiative \(ttionline.org\)](http://ttionline.org)), starting in 2008, is a growing ministry of disciple making and church planting around the world with over one million people having been won to Christ. In 2014, a significant addition to their ministry was the care of orphans and widows. They are serving the neglected as well as reaching the lost. Another indication of God's tender heart toward neglected people is this: "*God settles the solitary in a home; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity*" (v. 6), and "*... you provide for the needy*" (v. 10). He helps settle lonely people into families and helps set former prisoners on a better path. That is the serving heart of God. How are you serving neglected people in your community? Look for opportunities! Be like God to them!

\*\*\*\*\*

*A Maskil<sup>[fn]</sup> of Ethan the Ezrahite.*

- 1 I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;  
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.*
- 2 For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever;  
in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness."*
- 3 You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
I have sworn to David my servant:*
- 4 'I will establish your offspring forever,  
and build your throne for all generations.'" Selah*
- 5 Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,  
your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!*
- 6 For who in the skies can be compared to the LORD?  
Who among the heavenly beings<sup>[fn]</sup> is like the LORD,*
- 7 a God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones,  
and awesome above all who are around him?*
- 8 O LORD God of hosts,  
who is mighty as you are, O LORD,  
with your faithfulness all around you?*
- 9 You rule the raging of the sea;  
when its waves rise, you still them.*
- 10 You crushed Rahab like a carcass;  
you scattered your enemies with your mighty arm.*
- 11 The heavens are yours; the earth also is yours;  
the world and all that is in it, you have founded them.*
- 12 The north and the south, you have created them;  
Tabor and Hermon joyously praise your name.*
- 13 You have a mighty arm;  
strong is your hand, high your right hand.*
- 14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;  
steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.*
- 15 Blessed are the people who know the festal shout,  
who walk, O LORD, in the light of your face,*
- 16 who exult in your name all the day  
and in your righteousness are exalted.*
- 17 For you are the glory of their strength;  
by your favor our horn is exalted.*
- 18 For our shield belongs to the LORD,  
our king to the Holy One of Israel.*
- 19 Of old you spoke in a vision to your godly one,<sup>[fn]</sup> and said:  
"I have granted help to one who is mighty;  
I have exalted one chosen from the people.*
- 20 I have found David, my servant;  
with my holy oil I have anointed him,*
- 21 so that my hand shall be established with him;  
my arm also shall strengthen him.*
- 22 The enemy shall not outwit him;  
the wicked shall not humble him.*

23 *I will crush his foes before him  
and strike down those who hate him.*  
 24 *My faithfulness and my steadfast love shall be with him,  
and in my name shall his horn be exalted.*  
 25 *I will set his hand on the sea  
and his right hand on the rivers.*  
 26 *He shall cry to me, ‘You are my Father,  
my God, and the Rock of my salvation.’*  
 27 *And I will make him the firstborn,  
the highest of the kings of the earth.*  
 28 *My steadfast love I will keep for him forever,  
and my covenant will stand firm<sup>[fn]</sup> for him.*  
 29 *I will establish his offspring forever  
and his throne as the days of the heavens.*  
 30 *If his children forsake my law  
and do not walk according to my rules,<sup>[fn]</sup>*  
 31 *if they violate my statutes  
and do not keep my commandments,*  
 32 *then I will punish their transgression with the rod  
and their iniquity with stripes,*  
 33 *but I will not remove from him my steadfast love  
or be false to my faithfulness.*  
 34 *I will not violate my covenant  
or alter the word that went forth from my lips.*  
 35 *Once for all I have sworn by my holiness;  
I will not lie to David.*  
 36 *His offspring shall endure forever,  
his throne as long as the sun before me.*  
 37 *Like the moon it shall be established forever,  
a faithful witness in the skies.” Selah*

#### ESV Footnotes

(89:1) Probably a musical or liturgical term  
 (89:6) Hebrew *the sons of God*, or *the sons of might*  
 (89:19) Some Hebrew manuscripts *godly ones*  
 (89:28) Or *will remain faithful*  
 (89:30) Or *my just decrees*

**Eternal Promise** — Do you have problems with keeping promises? All of us fail sometimes in not following through with a commitment. Not God! His promises are guaranteed to last. This psalm emphasizes His promise to David about maintaining his royal heritage forever. It lasted throughout the kingdom history of Judah, but did it end at the Babylonian exile? No, David’s descendants continued for centuries more without a king until Jesus was born, the Son of David, the ultimate and final King, who would reign for eternity. Gabriel promised Mary that “...*the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David ... and of his kingdom there will be no end*” (Luke 1:32-33). God kept His promise to David. In our reading from Psalm 89, God’s “*faithfulness*” was mentioned seven times, His “*steadfast love*” six times. Both are expressions of the trustworthiness of God. We can always trust Him. We are told to sing about and share the wonder of these two attributes of God (v. 1). What forever-promises has God made to us? Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would be with us forever (John 14:16). John wrote that “*the truth that abides in us ... will be with us forever*” (2 John

1:2). And the last chapter in the Bible promises that the servants of the Lord “*will reign forever and ever*” (Rev. 22:5). That’s God’s promise—an eternal promise.

[Standing On The Promises - YouTube](#)

Standing on the promises that cannot fail,  
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail;  
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,  
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing, standing,  
Standing on the promises of God, my Savior;  
Standing, standing,  
I’m standing on the promises of God.

—Russell Kelso Carter (1886)

\*\*\*\*\*

April 20 W Reading 110 — Psalm 96:1-13 — The Glory Due His Name

- <sup>1</sup> *Oh sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all the earth!*
- <sup>2</sup> *Sing to the LORD, bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.*
- <sup>3</sup> *Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous works among all the peoples!*
- <sup>4</sup> *For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;  
he is to be feared above all gods.*
- <sup>5</sup> *For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,  
but the LORD made the heavens.*
- <sup>6</sup> *Splendor and majesty are before him;  
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.*
- <sup>7</sup> *Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!*
- <sup>8</sup> *Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;  
bring an offering, and come into his courts!*
- <sup>9</sup> *Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness,<sup>[fn]</sup>  
tremble before him, all the earth!*
- <sup>10</sup> *Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns!  
Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved;  
he will judge the peoples with equity.”*
- <sup>11</sup> *Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;  
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;*
- <sup>12</sup> *let the field exult, and everything in it!  
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy*
- <sup>13</sup> *before the LORD, for he comes,  
for he comes to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world in righteousness,  
and the peoples in his faithfulness.*

**ESV Footnotes**

(96:9) Or *in holy attire*

**Responding to Glory** — This psalm is filled with examples of the attributes of God: His glory (vv. 3, 7), greatness (v. 4), “*Splendor ... majesty ... strength ... beauty*” (v. 6), holiness (v. 9), sovereignty and justice (v. 10), and “*righteousness ... and ... faithfulness*” (v. 13). All of this contributes to “*the glory due his name*” (v. 8), which suggests that we ought to respond. The psalm also tells us *how* to respond: “*Sing to the LORD, bless his name*” (v. 2), “*tell of his salvation*” (v. 2), “*Declare his glory*” (v. 3), “*Ascribe to the LORD*” (vv. 7-8), “*Worship the LORD ... [and] tremble before him*” (v. 9), and declare Him “*among the nations*” (v. 10). Our response is basically to worship God and share with those who don’t know Him. What is our normal response to experiences like falling in love or buying a new car? We want to talk about it, telling others about our good news. If we have fallen in love with Jesus, we should want to talk to others about Him as well.

[Glory To His Name - YouTube](#)

Come to this fountain so rich and sweet;  
Cast thy poor soul at the Savior’s feet;  
Plunge in today, and be made complete.  
Glory to His Name!

Glory to His Name; Glory to His Name.  
There to my heart was the blood applied;  
Glory to His Name!

— Elisha A. Hoffman (1878)

\*\*\*\*\*

April 21 Th Reading 111 — Psalm 100:1-5 — Glad and Thankful Worship

*A Psalm for giving thanks.*

- 1 *Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!*
- 2 *Serve the LORD with gladness!*  
*Come into his presence with singing!*
- 3 *Know that the LORD, he is God!*  
*It is he who made us, and we are his;<sup>[fn]</sup>*  
*we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*
- 4 *Enter his gates with thanksgiving,*  
*and his courts with praise!*  
*Give thanks to him; bless his name!*
- 5 *For the LORD is good;*  
*his steadfast love endures forever,*  
*and his faithfulness to all generations.*

**ESV Footnote**

(100:3) Or *and not we ourselves*

**Worship from the Heart** — This psalm tells us both *why* and *how* we should worship God. There are several reasons *why*: He made us, both physically and spiritually (“*It is he who made us, and we are his*”—v. 3), and He is good and always loving and faithful (v. 5). Please pause right now to acknowledge and thank Him for those character qualities that contribute to His greatness. Those are reasons *why* we should worship. There are also many instructions regarding *how* we should worship: It should be joyful and loud (v. 1), with glad hearts and singing voices (v. 2), and with thanksgiving and praise while we “*bless his name*” (v. 4). That is grateful and exuberant worship. Even if we have a hard time carrying a tune, we should sing loudly. It might disturb someone in front of you in church, but you are singing to God, not to them. (Sit in the front row!) Notice that worshipping joyfully “*with gladness*” (v. 2) and “*with thanksgiving*” (v. 4) have to do with attitude. We are not to just make noise in worship, but it must be genuine—heartfelt. Do you ever have to stop singing because you are

emotionally tearing up? Good! You are thinking about and feeling what you are singing. That is worship from the heart.

[Give Thanks - YouTube](#)

Give thanks with a grateful heart.  
Give thanks to the Holy One.  
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong."  
Let the poor say, "I am rich,"  
Because of what the Lord has done for us.  
Give thanks!

—Henry Smith (1978)

\*\*\*\*\*

April 22 F Reading 112 — Psalm 105:1-15 — Remembering God's Works

- 1 *Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;  
make known his deeds among the peoples!*
- 2 *Sing to him, sing praises to him;  
tell of all his wondrous works!*
- 3 *Glory in his holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!*
- 4 *Seek the LORD and his strength;  
seek his presence continually!*
- 5 *Remember the wondrous works that he has done,  
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,*
- 6 *O offspring of Abraham, his servant,  
children of Jacob, his chosen ones!*
- 7 *He is the LORD our God;  
his judgments are in all the earth.*
- 8 *He remembers his covenant forever,  
the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,*
- 9 *the covenant that he made with Abraham,  
his sworn promise to Isaac,*
- 10 *which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute,  
to Israel as an everlasting covenant,*
- 11 *saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan  
as your portion for an inheritance."*
- 12 *When they were few in number,  
of little account, and sojourners in it,*
- 13 *wandering from nation to nation,  
from one kingdom to another people,*
- 14 *he allowed no one to oppress them;  
he rebuked kings on their account,*
- 15 *saying, "Touch not my anointed ones,  
do my prophets no harm!"*



**Continually Seeking** — The first five verses of this psalm concentrate on worship: “... *give thanks ... call upon his name ... sing praises to him ... Glory in his holy name ... rejoice ... Seek the LORD!*” That section concludes with a command that sounds almost impossible to do: “...*seek his presence continually!*” (v. 4). Paul repeated this idea for us Christians: “...*pray without ceasing!*” (1 Thess. 5:17). How does one do that? Our psalm for today follows the “*continually*” command with a helpful suggestion: “*Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered*” (Ps. 105:5). That says that recalling what God has done in the past should present many reasons for us to praise Him. The psalm looks far back in Israel’s history to the experiences of Abraham when he lived in the land that God promised to give to his descendants: “*To you I will give the land of Canaan ... for an inheritance*” (v. 10). It also recalls how God “*allowed no one to oppress them*” (v. 14). God’s promise and His protection are two things for which to praise God. We only read the first third of this psalm today. If you want to see many more examples of the ways God cared for His people, read the rest of the psalm. Then get a piece of paper and write down at least five things that God has done for you in the past for which you can thank Him in praise. Leave that list out in some conspicuous place that you will notice often today. Each time, pick it up and review the blessings you remember. That exercise will help you to “*seek his presence continually*” today.

### [All Creatures of Our God and King - YouTube](#)

Let all things their Creator bless,  
and worship Him in humbleness,  
O praise Him, alleluia!

To God all thanks and praise belong!  
Join in the everlasting song:  
O sing ye, O sing ye,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

—St. Francis of Assisi (1225)

\*\*\*\*\*

## April 23 Sa Reading 113 — Psalm 25:1-22 — God’s Guidance and Protection

[fn] *Of David.*

- 1 *To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.*
- 2 *O my God, in you I trust;  
let me not be put to shame;  
let not my enemies exult over me.*
- 3 *Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;  
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.*
- 4 *Make me to know your ways, O LORD;  
teach me your paths.*
- 5 *Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all the day long.*
- 6 *Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.*
- 7 *Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me,  
for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!*
- 8 *Good and upright is the LORD;  
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.*

- 9 *He leads the humble in what is right,  
and teaches the humble his way.*
- 10 *All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.*
- 11 *For your name's sake, O LORD,  
pardon my guilt, for it is great.*
- 12 *Who is the man who fears the LORD?  
Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose.*
- 13 *His soul shall abide in well-being,  
and his offspring shall inherit the land.*
- 14 *The friendship<sup>[fn]</sup> of the LORD is for those who fear him,  
and he makes known to them his covenant.*
- 15 *My eyes are ever toward the LORD,  
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.*
- 16 *Turn to me and be gracious to me,  
for I am lonely and afflicted.*
- 17 *The troubles of my heart are enlarged;  
bring me out of my distresses.*
- 18 *Consider my affliction and my trouble,  
and forgive all my sins.*
- 19 *Consider how many are my foes,  
and with what violent hatred they hate me.*
- 20 *Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me!  
Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.*
- 21 *May integrity and uprightness preserve me,  
for I wait for you.*
- 22 *Redeem Israel, O God,  
out of all his troubles.*

#### ESV Footnotes

(25:1) This psalm is an acrostic poem, each verse beginning with the successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet  
(25:14) Or *The secret counsel*

**Trusting God** — Wow, what a great psalm! It is filled with the attributes and actions of God. I counted six attributes and 18 things He does. This would be a good psalm to memorize and use in worship of our amazing God. With all these activities of God, what does David suggest as the believer's responsibility? I saw only four: "*I lift up my soul*" (vv. 1, 15), "*I trust*" (v. 2), "*I wait*" (vv. 5, 21), and "*I take refuge in you*" (v. 20). That is a pretty good balance—God doing more than four times what we are to do! And the four things we should do are all pointing ourselves toward God—to His love and power. They are all about looking to God for what we need.

[Unto Thee, O Lord - YouTube](#)

Unto Thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul,  
Unto Thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

Oh my God, I trust in Thee,  
Let me not be ashamed,  
Let not mine enemies triumph over me.

—Charles F. Monroe (1971)