

KSW11 to Mar 16

March 10 Su Reading 69 — Psalm 47:1-9 — The Sovereign Ruler

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!^[fn]*
- 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*

The Holy Throne — This is a joyous psalm of praise to God, who rules over not only Israel, but universally over “*all the earth*” (vv. 2, 7, cf. 8, 9). Verse 8 says that “*God sits on his holy throne.*” That throne was symbolically located above the cherubim in the Most Holy Place of the temple in Jerusalem, but the universal scope of this passage seems to point to the ultimate throne of God in heaven, like David said: “*The LORD is in his holy temple; the LORD’s throne is in heaven...*” (Psa. 11:4). From that exalted position, God looks down on, and rules over, the whole earth. When His people were obedient, “*He subdued peoples under us*” (Psa. 47:3), and when they were disobedient, He used surrounding nations to punish them through military defeat. God is sovereign, meaning He is a supreme ruler, guiding nations to accomplish His overall purposes for mankind. The psalm ends appropriately with the conclusion that “*he is highly exalted!*” (v. 9). He should, then, be exalted by us in praise: “*Clap your hands ... Shout to God with loud songs of joy!*” (v. 1).

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

Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship Him in humbleness;
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One;
O praise Him, O praise Him!
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

— St. Francis of Assisi (1225)

March 11 M Reading 70 — Psalm 139:1-12 — The Spirit's Presence

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

- 1 O LORD, you have searched me and known me!
- 2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 3 You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 4 Even before a word is on my tongue,
behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.
- 5 You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
- 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is high; I cannot attain it.

- 7 Where shall I go from your Spirit?
Or where shall I flee from your presence?
- 8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there!
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!
- 9 If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
10 even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me.
- 11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light about me be night,"
12 even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is bright as the day,
for darkness is as light with you.

You Are There! — This wonderful psalm of David emphasizes God's complete knowledge (omniscience) in verses 1-6 and His universal presence (omnipresence) in verses 7-12. He knows everything and He is everywhere. Verse 7 shows that the Holy Spirit is inescapable; none can go where He is not present, and none can flee from Him. Why would anyone want to flee from Him? I think the answer is mostly because of accountability. God has set a high standard of morality, and the natural man does not want to submit to it. Even Christians occasionally want to escape the watchful eye of the Holy Spirit so they can indulge in an act of sin. We need to develop a constant awareness of the presence of the Spirit wherever we are and whatever we do, which will help deter us from sin. Things we would never do if our pastor were watching, we do while the Spirit is watching because we dismiss Him from our minds. Twice in the next verse, the psalmist says of the Spirit, "*you are there!*" (v. 8). He is present in heaven, which is expected, but also on earth and in the grave ("*in Sheol*"). Let the knowledge of His presence motivate you to live in purity and truth!

Earlier verses of this hymn are contained in this video:

[God Himself Is With Us - YouTube](#)

Come, celestial Being,
make our hearts Your dwelling,
every carnal thought dispelling.
By Your Holy Spirit
sanctify us truly,
teaching us to love You only.
Where we go here below,
let us bow before You
and in truth adore You.
— Gerhardt Tersteegen (1729)

A Psalm of David.

- 1 *Hear my prayer, O LORD;
give ear to my pleas for mercy!
In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!*
- 2 *Enter not into judgment with your servant,
for no one living is righteous before you.*
- 3 *For the enemy has pursued my soul;
he has crushed my life to the ground;
he has made me sit in darkness like those long dead.*
- 4 *Therefore my spirit faints within me;
my heart within me is appalled.*
- 5 *I remember the days of old;
I meditate on all that you have done;
I ponder the work of your hands.*
- 6 *I stretch out my hands to you;
my soul thirsts for you like a parched land. Selah*
- 7 *Answer me quickly, O LORD!
My spirit fails!
Hide not your face from me,
lest I be like those who go down to the pit.*
- 8 *Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love,
for in you I trust.
Make me know the way I should go,
for to you I lift up my soul.*
- 9 *Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!
I have fled to you for refuge.^[fn]*
- 10 *Teach me to do your will,
for you are my God!
Let your good Spirit lead me
on level ground!*
- 11 *For your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life!
In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!*
- 12 *And in your steadfast love you will cut off my enemies,
and you will destroy all the adversaries of my soul,
for I am your servant.*

ESV Footnote

(143:9) One Hebrew manuscript, Septuagint; most Hebrew manuscripts *To you I have covered*

The Good Spirit — The Holy Spirit is called the “*good Spirit*” only here (v. 10) and in Neh. 9:20, which we read about last week. In today’s reading, His goodness is shown in how He leads us: “*Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!*” (v. 10). This rather uncommon Hebrew word for “*lead*” is also unusual in that it is used in the OT mostly for divine leadership. Moses used it in describing how

God led Israel through the wilderness with the cloud by day and the fire by night (Ex. 13:21). He is the Shepherd who “*leads me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake*” (Psa. 23:3). David prayed, “*Lead me to the rock that is higher than I*” (Psa. 61:2), and later he wrote, “*lead me in the way everlasting*” (Psa. 139:24). The Holy Spirit is good because He leads us. Sometimes His leading is obvious to us, but it is often seen in subtle ways that are recognized only in hindsight. Notice also in today’s psalm *where* He leads us, “*...on level ground*” (Psa. 143:10). He smooths out rough places in our lives that cause confusion and stumbling. Level ground is where we want to be when fighting against our enemy of temptation, and the “*good Spirit*” enables us to do that.

The original words were slightly altered in this video.

[Thy Will Be Done - YouTube](#)

Let but my fainting heart be blest
With Thy sweet Spirit for its guest,
My God, to Thee I leave the rest;
Thy will be done.

— Charlotte Elliott (1834)

March 13 W Reading 72 — Isaiah 30:1-5 — Alliance Without Guidance

- 1 “*Ah, stubborn children,*” declares the LORD,
“*who carry out a plan, but not mine,*
and who make an alliance,^[fn] but not of my Spirit,
that they may add sin to sin;
- 2 *who set out to go down to Egypt,*
without asking for my direction,
to take refuge in the protection of Pharaoh
and to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt!
- 3 *Therefore shall the protection of Pharaoh turn to your shame,*
and the shelter in the shadow of Egypt to your humiliation.
- 4 *For though his officials are at Zoan*
and his envoys reach Hanes,
- 5 *everyone comes to shame*
through a people that cannot profit them,
that brings neither help nor profit,
but shame and disgrace.”

ESV Footnote

(30:1) Hebrew *who weave a web*

Seeking the Spirit’s Direction — Judah was being threatened by Assyria from the north, so rather than seeking direction from God’s Holy Spirit, they sent officials to Egypt to buy protection from the nation from which they had escaped slavery centuries before. Even during Moses’ life, many of the Israelites wanted to go back to Egypt for the comfort of familiarity (Num. 11:5). Now, they ran to Egypt for protection. God would later say through Isaiah, “*Behold, you are trusting in Egypt, that broken reed of a staff, which will pierce the hand of any man who leans on it. Such is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who trust in him*” (Isa. 36:6). Judah’s error was not only that they didn’t recognize the weakness of Egypt, but that they neglected to seek God’s direction. Similarly, most of us don’t pray nearly enough before making decisions. We need guidance from the Spirit because He sees and knows all, and He loves and cares for us. As Solomon told them and reminds us, “*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding*” (Prov. 3:5).

This hymn is sung in a crowded Anglican church in Nigeria:

[Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers - YouTube](#)

Come as the light; to us reveal
Our emptiness and woe,
And lead us in those paths of life
Where all the righteous go.

— Andrew Reed (1829)

March 14 Th Reading 73 — Isaiah 32:9-20 — Israel's Warning and Hope

- ⁹ *Rise up, you women who are at ease, hear my voice;
you complacent daughters, give ear to my speech.*
- ¹⁰ *In little more than a year
you will shudder, you complacent women;
for the grape harvest fails,
the fruit harvest will not come.*
- ¹¹ *Tremble, you women who are at ease,
shudder, you complacent ones;
strip, and make yourselves bare,
and tie sackcloth around your waist.*
- ¹² *Beat your breasts for the pleasant fields,
for the fruitful vine,*
- ¹³ *for the soil of my people
growing up in thorns and briers,
yes, for all the joyous houses
in the exultant city.*
- ¹⁴ *For the palace is forsaken,
the populous city deserted;
the hill and the watchtower
will become dens forever,
a joy of wild donkeys,
a pasture of flocks;*
- ¹⁵ *until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high,
and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field,
and the fruitful field is deemed a forest.*
- ¹⁶ *Then justice will dwell in the wilderness,
and righteousness abide in the fruitful field.*
- ¹⁷ *And the effect of righteousness will be peace,
and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust^[fn] forever.*
- ¹⁸ *My people will abide in a peaceful habitation,
in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.*
- ¹⁹ *And it will hail when the forest falls down,
and the city will be utterly laid low.*
- ²⁰ *Happy are you who sow beside all waters,
who let the feet of the ox and the donkey range free.*

ESV Footnote

(32:17) Or *security*

The Peace-producing Spirit — The northern kingdom of Israel was only a year away from being punished for their long disobedience. They would be conquered by Assyria from the north and dispersed among other nations. God was warning in this chapter about the coming disaster to a nation of people who were “*at ease*” and “*complacent*” (vv. 9-11). There was hope on the horizon, however, when “*the Spirit is poured upon us from on high*” (v. 15). It was in this part of Israel that the Messiah grew up and ministered. Upon Him and through Him the Holy Spirit was poured out on the people of that land, and it became a spiritually “*fruitful field*” where justice and righteousness dwelt, producing “*peace ... quietness and trust forever*” (vv. 15-17). The presence of the Holy Spirit makes dramatic changes, bringing internal, quiet peace to the hearts of believers. It is “*the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, [that] will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus*” (Phil. 4:7).

[Peace Wonderful Peace - YouTube](#)

What a treasure I have in this wonderful peace,
Buried deep in the heart of my soul;
So secure that no power can mine it away,
While the years of eternity roll.

Peace! Peace! wonderful peace,
Coming down from the Father above;
Sweep over my spirit forever, I pray,
In fathomless billows of love.

— Warren D. Cornell (b. 1858)

March 15 F Reading 74 — Isaiah 34:8-17 — Vengeance Against Edom

- 8 *For the LORD has a day of vengeance,
a year of recompense for the cause of Zion.*
- 9 *And the streams of Edom^[fn] shall be turned into pitch,
and her soil into sulfur;
her land shall become burning pitch.*
- 10 *Night and day it shall not be quenched;
its smoke shall go up forever.
From generation to generation it shall lie waste;
none shall pass through it forever and ever.*
- 11 *But the hawk and the porcupine^[fn] shall possess it,
the owl and the raven shall dwell in it.
He shall stretch the line of confusion^[fn] over it,
and the plumb line of emptiness.*
- 12 *Its nobles—there is no one there to call it a kingdom,
and all its princes shall be nothing.*
- 13 *Thorns shall grow over its strongholds,
nettles and thistles in its fortresses.
It shall be the haunt of jackals,
an abode for ostriches^[fn]*
- 14 *And wild animals shall meet with hyenas;
the wild goat shall cry to his fellow;
indeed, there the night bird^[fn] settles
and finds for herself a resting place.*

- 15 *There the owl nests and lays
and hatches and gathers her young in her shadow;
indeed, there the hawks are gathered,
each one with her mate.*
- 16 *Seek and read from the book of the LORD:
Not one of these shall be missing;
none shall be without her mate.
For the mouth of the LORD has commanded,
and his Spirit has gathered them.*
- 17 *He has cast the lot for them;
his hand has portioned it out to them with the line;
they shall possess it forever;
from generation to generation they shall dwell in it.*

ESV Footnotes

(34:9) Hebrew *her streams*

(34:11) The identity of the animals rendered hawk and porcupine is uncertain

(34:11) Hebrew *formlessness*

(34:13) Or *owls*

(34:14) Identity uncertain

The Gathering Spirit — At the beginning of this chapter, God indicates His anger against “*all the nations*” (v. 2), and in our reading for today, He centers on Edom as a representative of those nations. Devastating judgment was coming, which would leave their abandoned land fit only for weeds and wild animals. It is in this context of gathering the wild animals that the Holy Spirit is mentioned, saying, “*...and his Spirit has gathered them*” (v. 16). This is interesting for several reasons. Near the end of January, we read that the Spirit was involved in Creation, where “*the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters*” (Gen. 1:2). In that same verse, it said that the earth was “*without form and void...*” using the same two Hebrew words that are translated “*confusion ... and ... emptiness*” in verse 11 of today’s reading. The condition of the world before Creation would be like how the land of Edom would be left following its judgment. Another similarity is the gathering of animals by the Spirit in verse 16, compared to the miraculous gathering of all the pairs of animals to Noah’s ark. It is also like what will happen at the Second Coming, when the Son of Man “*will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other*” (Matt. 24:31). The Holy Spirit continues to gather into the Church those who come to Christ in faith, and He gathers us believers together in local churches around the world. He is the gathering Spirit.

[We Gather Together - YouTube](#)

<p>We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing; He chastens and hastens His will to make known; The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing. Sing praises to His name, He forgets not His own.</p>

Anonymous (1626?)

March 16 Sa Reading 75 — Psalm 48:1-14 — Mount Zion

A Song. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah.

¹ *Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised*

in the city of our God!
 2 *His holy mountain, beautiful in elevation,*
is the joy of all the earth,
Mount Zion, in the far north,
the city of the great King.
 3 *Within her citadels God*
has made himself known as a fortress.

 4 *For behold, the kings assembled;*
they came on together.
 5 *As soon as they saw it, they were astounded;*
they were in panic; they took to flight.
 6 *Trembling took hold of them there,*
anguish as of a woman in labor.
 7 *By the east wind you shattered*
the ships of Tarshish.
 8 *As we have heard, so have we seen*
in the city of the LORD of hosts,
in the city of our God,
which God will establish forever. Selah

 9 *We have thought on your steadfast love, O God,*
in the midst of your temple.
 10 *As your name, O God,*
so your praise reaches to the ends of the earth.
Your right hand is filled with righteousness.
 11 *Let Mount Zion be glad!*
Let the daughters of Judah rejoice
because of your judgments!

 12 *Walk about Zion, go around her,*
number her towers,
 13 *consider well her ramparts,*
go through her citadels,
that you may tell the next generation
 14 *that this is God,*
our God forever and ever.
He will guide us forever.^[fn]

ESV Footnote

(48:14) Septuagint; another reading is (compare Jerome, Syriac) *He will guide us beyond death*

His Holy Mountain — Verse 2 of this psalm says that “*His holy mountain, beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth...*” Select mountains in Scripture play a special holy role in God’s connection with mankind. We see it first when God appeared to Moses at the foot of “*the mountain of God*” (Ex. 3:1), later called Mount Sinai (Ex. 19:11). It was to this mountain that God led Israel after parting the Red Sea, and there He dramatically gave the Ten Commandments to Moses (Ex. 19:18; 24:12). It was God’s presence that made that mountain holy. It is interesting that in the 18 places where the expression “*holy mountain*” is mentioned in Scripture, in 13 of them it is “*my...*” or “*his holy mountain*”: It was His presence that made it holy. In the Song of Moses, the prediction was made about another special holy mountain in the Promised Land: “*You will bring them in and plant them on your own mountain, the place, O LORD, which you have made for your abode, the sanctuary*” (Ex. 15:17). That

was Mount Zion in Judah, the location of the later city of Jerusalem. In the same way that God demonstrated his presence at Mount Sinai, He displayed His glory on Mount Zion at the completion of the construction of Solomon's temple (2 Chron. 7:1-2). One more dramatic mountain top demonstration will occur in the future, according to the vision of John: *"Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders."* (Rev. 14:1-3).

[Behold the Mountain of the Lord - YouTube](#)

Behold! the mountain of the Lord
in latter days shall rise
On mountain tops above the hills,
and draw the wondering eyes.
To this the joyful nations round,
all tribes and tongues, shall flow;
Up to the hill of God, they'll say,
and to His house we'll go.

— Michael Bruce (b. 1746)
John Logan (b. 1748)