

## The King Enters His Capital City

### *Jesus the King Enters*

- Fellow PS worshipers: today not only remem, but also join in celebration with all crowds of people gathered on road from Bethany to Jerusalem to shout praises to Jesus our King. For many weeks now, Jesus has been travelling from Galilee in N to Jerusalem in S, always with his mission on his mind. In chapter before today's Gospel (in Mk 10): **"We are going up to Jerusalem, ...and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise"** (Mk 10:33-34). So: Jesus is man on mission as heads to Jerusalem; knows exactly what suffering he will face when enters the city.
- But on that first PS, things are different. One week before his res, at beg on what we call HW, people are throwing cloaks down on road before him; cutting down palm branches, blanketing road with them; praising him: **"Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord"** (Mk 11:9). And why? Bec king is entering cap city. That's really what was happening on PS: Jesus enters his cap city as king. Called king by Zech in 1<sup>st</sup> lesson: **"Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! ...See, your king comes to you"** (9:9). We called him king today in prayer/day: *"So may we always hail him as our King."* Called king by crowds in Gospel who shouted, **"Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David"** (11:10). Speaking of David, King David also calls Jesus a king, in Ps 24. And being a king himself, David understands what it's like to ride into cap city amid shouts of praise. Kings are used to that: whether it's Assyrian, Babylonian kings from OT; or English monarch, French royalty in Mid Ages – there's a certain joyous atmosphere when a king comes to town. Here in Ps 24, King David prophesies what it's like when King Jesus enters his cap city.



### *Entering the Capital City of Jerusalem*

- To start, there's that refrain: **vs. 7ab, 9ab**. Gates/doors of old city walls don't literally have heads; but it's poetic. It's not just people of city; it's city structure itself that's rejoicing, looking up from her daily tasks, getting ready, so that **vs. 7b**. Called **"King of glory."** You'll remem from last wk's sermon that Jesus' true glory is revealed in suf/death on cross. Last wk in Jn 12, Jesus: **"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified"** (12:23); talking re crucifixion, which we will see later this week; so hour indeed has come. This MT & GF (just few days from now), we will see Jesus arrested, mocked, spit on, whipped, crucified, killed – just like he said; and won't look glorious at all! That's irony of whole thing: Ps 24 calls Jesus the **"King of glory...the Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle."** But as Jesus hung there, ripped-to-shreds, body bloody & beaten, naked & nail to cross, doesn't look mighty in battle; looks like lost battle.
- Ps 24 even calls Jesus the **"Lord Almighty,"** which is what the KJV translated **"Lord of hosts,"** of soldiers & angel warriors: that's the Lord of hosts. But on cross doesn't look like commander of angel hosts. But, again, that's the irony here. Remember on MT, as being arrested, how Jesus said, **"Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?"** (Mt 26:53)? He is "Lord of hosts." And by calling him **"Lord of hosts"** and **"King of glory,"** **"strong and mighty...in battle,"** Ps 24 helps us to see what's hidden. What we see is Roman torture; what's hidden is his victory and glory. But that's what we need to see here, because who did Jesus come to do battle against? PP? Roman soldiers, Jewish priests? No! **"The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle,"** our Savior JC, rode into Jeru that first PS to

fight final battle against our greatest enemy Satan, whose sole goal is to snatch our soul into hell. And we would've been his first victims, had Jesus not entered his cap city. But there at Jeru our king of glory, facing hammer & nail, crown of thorn, fist & whip, fought and finished battle against Satan, death, and hell, for us. He was **“pierced for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities” (Isa 53:5); “delivered over to death for our sins...raised to life for our justification” (Rom 5:24).** That's what King of glory did for us! That's why today we join those first PS worshipers and raise our palms and praises to our strong and mighty King of glory, as he enters his cap city.

### *Entering the Capital City of Our Hearts*

- But there's something else to remem here: PS is not only time, nor Jeru only place, when Jesus enters as king amid shouts of praise. Think when Jesus born in Beth: angels sang in skies as king entered world, his cap city. After all, **vs. 1.** Or even think 9 mos before born, when Jesus came to earth in Mary's womb, and Angel Gabriel announced to her that she would be virgin mother of Savior. Again, Mary rejoiced. (By way, that event, “Annunciation” of Gabriel to Mary, is what Christian Church celebrates this very day, 3/25, because today is exactly 9 mos before Christmas.) And even before Ann., our entire Advent worship prepares us for Jesus to come/enter. Why we sing Ps 24 in Advent.
- Well, know something: whenever we, in our hearts, believe in Jesus: the king enters his cap city. This is his cap city: right here in our hearts where he reigns by faith. Ps says, **vs. 3.** What person can stand in God's holy presence? **Vs. 4a.** That's not me! I have dirty hands that have sinned vs God in countless ways; I have impure heart that loves evil. And if you're honest, you do, too! So on our own, we cannot stand in God's holy presence. But that's why Jesus did it for us. Jesus entered city of Jeru that first PS, purposefully, to offer his sinless life on cross as the sacrifice to cleanse our hands, purify our hearts, and open our hearts to believe in him. So now, as Christians, we do have clean hands and a pure heart, and we can stand in God's presence. **Vs. 5.** When King Jesus enters our hearts, we receive **“vindication,”** which could also be translated **“righteousness.”** On cross, Jesus not only paid for our sins; also gave us his righteousness, so that we can stand in God's holy presence. And when we believe that, then in our hearts, the king enters his cap city.

### *Conclusion*

- Today, on this PS, we see palms, hear praises, and join in the celebration, bec King Jesus is entering his cap city. He enters cap city of Jeru as the king of glory, to fight/win battle vs Satan on cross. And he enters cap city of our hearts, where he reigns by faith as we trust in him as our Savior. **“Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”** May God bless our HW.

### **Psalm 24**

*Of David. A psalm.* <sup>1</sup> The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; <sup>2</sup> for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.

<sup>3</sup> Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place? <sup>4</sup> The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god. <sup>5</sup> They will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God their Savior. <sup>6</sup> Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, God of Jacob.

<sup>7</sup> Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. <sup>8</sup> Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. <sup>9</sup> Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. <sup>10</sup> Who is he, this King of glory? The LORD Almighty – he is the King of glory.