

Psalm 93

1. *The Lord is king and has put on glorious apparel;
the Lord has put on his glory and girded himself with strength.*
2. *He has made the whole world so sure that it cannot be moved.*
3. *Your throne has been established from of old; you are from everlasting.*
4. *The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voice;
the floods lift up their pounding waves.*
5. *Mightier than the thunder of many waters, mightier than the breakers
of the sea, the Lord on high is mightier.*
6. *Your testimonies are very sure; holiness adorns your house, O Lord,
for ever.*

The Lord has put on his glory and girded himself with strength.

Psalm 93 is a hymn for the enthronement festival. The first part, (vv. 1-2)

announces that the Lord, attired in kingly majesty as in a royal robe, has ascended his throne. His throne symbolises his authority, which is eternal. and the order of nature and society, which he has established, will endure.

The second part (vv. 3-4) portrays the struggle of the forces of chaos, like the floods, which disrupt the order and harmony of his creation. But God is mightier than chaos, and his order stands fast. His rule guarantees that the world will not be overwhelmed by natural or political catastrophe.

The image of water can be found throughout the Bible, notably in the story of the flood in Genesis, and also in the Psalter, for example in Psalm 74:

'It was you that divided the sea by your might
and shattered the heads of the dragons in the waters;
You alone crushed the heads of Leviathan
and gave him to the beasts of the desert for food.
You cleft the rock for fountain and flood;
you dried up the ever-flowing waters.'

The psalm ends by reiterating what God has ordained. His majesty adorns the temple, and the congregation proclaims his absolute power.

We are sometimes over-awed by nature and creation, by the vastness of the sea, before which we feel very small, or by great mountains. We can be captivated by the sheer beauty of nature, or by the stars in the sky, the depth of which we cannot take in. All that is near and that which is far away tells of the glory of God, and is a constant source of admiration and a sign of God's presence.

At Ascensiontide we proclaim the Kingship of our Lord Jesus Christ, as he goes to the Father in heaven and reigns for evermore.

Prayer

Blessed are you, Sovereign God, our light and our salvation, to you be glory and praise for ever. In the beginning you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. To dispel the darkness of our night, you sent forth your Son, the first-born of all creation. He is our Christ, the light of the world, and him we acclaim, as all creation sings to you, Father, Son and holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever. Amen.