

## Psalm 47

1. *Clap your hands together, all you peoples; O sing to God with shouts of joy.*
2. *For the Lord Most High is to be feared; he is the great King over all the earth.*
3. *He subdued the peoples under us and the nations under our feet.*
4. *He has chosen our heritage for us; the pride of Jacob, whom he loves.*
5. *God has gone up with a merry noise, the Lord with the sound of the trumpet.*
6. *O 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 all your skill.*
8. *God reigns over the nations; God has taken his seat upon his holy throne*
9. *The nobles of the peoples are gathered together with the people of the God of Abraham.*
10. *For the powers of the earth belong to God and he is very highly exalted.*

God raised Jesus from the dead **and enthroned him at his right hand in the heavenly realms.**

The theme of this hymn is the sovereignty of God. It is a hymn for the enthronement festival, along with covenant renewal rituals at the New Year feast. The repeated claim that God rules all the earth is the result of faith, that, as God's authority governs the whole of history, it will eventually be recognised by all people.

The people are invited to raise a shout as they remember how God overcame the Canaanites and gave them the land which he had promised to Jacob. They recite these mighty acts of God, and then in procession carry the ark, the throne of God, into the temple., accompanied by trumpets and singing.

When the ark entered, they sang the last two verses, which look to the time when the rulers of foreign nations and the Israelites, the heirs of Abraham, would form a single congregation. They would pay homage to the King of all the earth, to whom all power belongs.

Can we sing? We sing when we are happy, we sing while we are doing a job, we sing together in church. We can all sing, even if some sing better than others! We never forget things we have learnt to sing when we were young. I remember a lady in my mum's care home, who couldn't talk, but one day in the lounge suddenly sang out loud the first verse of Praise, my soul, the King of heaven, word perfect! It was very moving. Singing expresses what mere words cannot, it remains deep inside us. So let us sing out loud to praise God, who has been revealed throughout history and now is present with us in our time, as Jesus now ascends into heaven and reigns for ever.

## Prayer

As Christ was raised by your glory, O Father,  
so may we be raised to new life  
and rejoice to be called your children,  
both now and for ever. **Amen.**

*(from Reflections of the Psalms)*