**“Long Lives the King of Kings!”, *Psalm 146***

Psalm 146

Acts 10:34-43

Colossians 3”1-4

Matthew 28:1-10

Easter

Psalm 146: “Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being. Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation. When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish. Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord watches over the sojourners; He upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked He brings to ruin. The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generation. Praise the Lord!”

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**1**

Recorded in 1 Samuel 10:24: “And all the people shouted, ‘Long live the king!’” and this acclamation has been made at the accession of a new king to any throne ever since. From King Saul to King Charles, these words are the common expression but a noteworthy sentence structure. The verb is “subjunctive”, expressing a hope or wish or desired condition of stability in a long reign. There is very little worse (most often) than short successions of governments with the uncertainty of changeovers. **As kings go, so goes the kingdom**. Such is the history of this world. From kings to presidents, we see their **shaping** … and, sometimes, **un-shaping** …

**2**

… and one thing earthy kings make us remember is **human mortality**. We’ve been (of recent) noting the passage of Old Testament kings, from one then onto another. Another salutation that reflects that is “The king is dead. Long live the king!” and the Bible is not shy about recounting earthly kings’ mortality. Books like Kings and Chronicles and, then, the genealogies announce how old one was when they **died** and how another would follow who would, also, eventually **die**.

Scripture, though, also records the **faithfulness** of a king in their life … or if they weren’t at all. The lesson continually taught by these accounts the one that Psalm 146 summarizes: “Put not **your trust** in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is **no salvation**. When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day **his plans perish**”. Israel still seeks a return of rule like as was King David. But, for all **his good**, his son was **not his duplicate**. And his grandkids departed far from his type of kingship. The country (as a country) hasn’t been the same **ever** since.

**3**

“The king is dead. Long live the king!” There is One, though, who **broke the mold**. From the line of kings, **He** wasn’t born (this One) in a palace … but, instead, a barn. **This One** got announced by an angel saying: “**He** will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to **Him** the throne of His father David … and **He will** save His people from (even) their sins”. **This One** was hailed King by foreign Wise Men and Christened King by God the Father in baptism: “God **anointed** Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power” …

… and **He** was recognized as Kingly by some early on. Nathanael identified Jesus as Israel’s **coming King**, introducing others to Him to follow. And as Jesus went through the land **He** conquered darkness and brought to a nation and world Light, preaching of the Kingdom of God that was “at hand” in Him eternally. And crowds followed wanting to place Him on Jerusalem’s throne. Entering the city, crowds crying “Hosanna! Blessed is **He** who comes in the name of the Lord, even the **King of Israel**!” But **He** assumed only the **strangest of earthly thrones (a cross of crucifixion)** … and wore just **one crown upon this earth**. And the only purple/royal robe He wore was just **for a moment of mockery then stripped from Him to bear His back and skin for whips**. Thorns soldiers forced upon His brow to shed blood and a little sign above His head in death said only that **here hung** “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Judeans”. **This one’s** earthly **Coronation** was the day we call “Good Friday” for its irreplaceable Goodness for us … and this had to have been (seemingly) the shortest reign of any king. **He** (Jesus) died within mere **hours**.

But **HERE** was the King who **succeeded Himself**. On this morning that we remember with Easter, **THE KING THAT STILL LIVES, AND WILL FOREVER, IS “KING OF KINGS” NO MATTER AT ALL WHAT ANY’S OPINIONS MIGHT BE. LONG “LIVES THE KING” IS A FACT!** …

**4**

… and the plans of this King (the King of Kings) were met fully in His death. “It is finished” means that nothing is necessary “further”, the “New Testament in His bloodshed” ushered in to be life, and sin and ultimate death, and the devil have been not weakened but cosmically **defeated** (“where is death’s sting” for those in Christ Jesus). Because death could not **hold Him** (His two nights in a grave just the fulfillment of duty and a victory march into and through Hell. **He** (Jesus, the Son of God through Whom everything was ever created) kept His promises to **be sent** and **come from His Heaven home and Father and become man, living, then, as One tempted and yet never to give in to temptation, healing (which is not just helping) and giving Himself up to die (really die as a man) a divine death that’s worthy of saving everyone who can’t save ourselves … and then rising and, finally, ascending to “hold court” over a kingdom in Heaven and on earth that’ll never have an ending**.

“Long **lives the King of Kings**” **…** **not of this earth, yet over it, and still within it where He promises to be**. “The Lord **will reign forever**; **your God, O Zion, to all generations**”, and the only variable is **our** being inside of that Zion of His Kingdom. Will **you and I** trust more men rather than God and His Son, the resurrected Savior, Jesus? Will **we** find **our true hope** in the God of Jacob and no **vain place** anywhere else?

There are options for **un-resurrected seeming heroes** to follow and trust. Governments will come and go, and Hollywood stars have only their run and athletes have their careers when in prime and, then, they’re out. Children have their parents, but they age, and one can never claim an ability (or trustworthiness) that’ll keep us living forever on our own.

But Jesus sacrificed Himself for death’s potential overall curse then never let the **remainder of death** hold Him forever, so (“**LONG DOES *LIVE* THE KING**”). And He offers all people **life and it forever “in Him”**. From Colossians: “If you’ve been **raised with Christ**” (a **baptismal Promise** as Romans 6 tells one so-washed that they are) “seek the things that are ab**ove where Christ is, seated” now “at the right hand of God**. **Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth**. For **you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God**. **When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory**.” Women thought Jesus dead, and in a tomb, and an angel encountered them at an **empty tomb**: “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. **He is not here, for His has risen, as He said. Come, see the place where He lay**. Then **go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead**, and behold, He is going before you to Galilee” (to be seen); there **you will see Him**” … **AND THEY *DID***.

Christ **is risen!** He **is risen indeed!** Alleluia! Amen.