



Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024
Psalms for Advent



OUR PRIEST IS COMING!

Psalm 110

1. **Opening Discussion Questions:** (in a group setting you may not want to use all of these)
 - a. When you were a child/young person what was your favorite Christmas song (we won't make fun of you if it was "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer" but we may pray for you more)? How has that preference changed over time? Did becoming a Christian change your preference for Christmas songs?
 - b. What Christmas experience brought you the greatest joy? Why? Was it something absolutely unique or was it something you can replicate to others?
 - c. If you had the opportunity to participate in a Christmas pageant as a child, what part did you want? Why? Were you ever given the role and if so, did it turn out the way you expected? If you never had the opportunity, what has been the most memorable Christmas pageant or Christmas musical you have been able to attend?
2. **Sermon Outline/Key Points**
 - a. Our Messiah Is King, Priest, and Eternally God Himself
 - i. A messianic psalm in which we learn something mysterious about Him.
 - ii. He is also a priest in addition to the eternal king.
 - b. Celebrate that Our Great High Priest Is Always Interceding for You
 - i. Celebrate that Jesus came to be our great high priest.
 - ii. Celebrate that Jesus is at God's right hand, interceding for you right now!
 - c. Anticipate Our Priest's Return to Execute Judgment on the World
 - i. When Jesus returns, it will be in the terrifying power described in Psalm 110
 - ii. Be urgent about sharing the good news of Jesus Christ
3. **Study/Discussion Points:**
 - a. *Sunday Afternoon*
 - i. As soon as possible after listening to the sermon set aside some time to ponder these questions prayerfully:
 - ii. What one thing most stood out to you in this sermon?
 - iii. What new truth did you learn or of what truth were you reminded?
 - iv. After listening to the sermon, is there a Scripture passage you feel led to meditate on or commit to memory this week?
 - v. What is one thing you feel God is leading you to do after hearing this message?
 - vi. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?
 - b. *Monday:*



- i. In writing about Psalm 110 Martin Luther said: “This is a true and exalted psalm, the main one to deal with our dear Lord Jesus Christ. Here, as nowhere else in the Old Testament Scriptures, we find a clear and powerful description of His person - who He is, namely, both David's promised Son according to the flesh and God's eternal Son, as well as the eternal King and Priest”. On the first Sunday of Advent, the sermon considered Christ's role as King. This week the focus is on Christ as Priest. Psalm 110 beautifully addresses both.
- ii. Read Psalm 110 with this in mind. Meditate on the words and let them lift you in praise and worship. If that is as far as you get, the day's study will have been a huge success.
- iii. The Psalm is normally considered to be composed of two stanzas with each presenting a divine oracle or pronouncement. Which verses do you think belong to each stanza?
 1. If verses 1-3 are the first stanza what function that Christ performs is being discussed (verse 2)?
 2. If verses 4-7 are the second stanza what role is discussed (verse 4)?

c. **Tuesday:**

- i. Start by reading and meditating on Psalm 110 again today.
- ii. Understanding this Psalm requires that we first properly understand the opening line: “The LORD says to my Lord”. David, whom Jesus confirms is the author, is reporting a conversation he has been privileged to hear. Who is speaking and to whom?
 1. The NIV, ESV, and CSB all follow the normal convention of translating the Hebrew name YHWH (Yehweh or Jehovah) for God with the English word LORD (using small caps) and rendering the more general terms *adonai* or *adon* as Lord (or lord) which can either be a name of God or human title. So, who is David quoting?
 2. How do we know who the “my Lord” God is speaking to is? Since David, the King of Israel, and thus the highest official in the land calls the addressee “my Lord” who is left that it could be?
 3. If (since) we are being allowed to hear God speaking to His Son how important should we consider this passage? In what other important New Testament passages do we see God doing something similar (see Matthew 3:17 & 17:5)?
 4. How David's Lord could also be David's son (the Messiah) is the event we are preparing to commemorate. Read Luke 1:26-38. How does Gabriel explain it? What is the theological term we use to describe what is occurring?
- iii. In verses 1, 2, & 3 the Father (LORD) makes three promises to his Son regarding His role as King. Can you identify them?
 1. For verse 1 compare with Joshua 10:24, 1 Corinthians 15:24-25 and Ephesians 1:22. What is God promising will happen?
 2. For verse 2 compare with Psalm 2, Isaiah 2:1-4, and Micah 4:1-3. How does the promise God makes here differ from the extensions of the kingdom that David and Solomon accomplished during their lives? How will it be fundamentally different from any earthly kingdom? This time of year, we frequently hear the Hallelujah Chorus. How does it describe the fulfillment of this promise?



3. For verse 3 compare with Revelation 19:14 and 2 Samuel 23:4. What three things can we say about the army God has promised?

d. Wednesday:

- i. Start by reading and meditating on Psalm 110 again today. Focus particularly on verses 4-7.
- ii. If the first stanza is about Christ as King what does verse 4 tell us the second stanza is about?
 1. Read Genesis 14:17-20. Who was Melchizedek? What offices did he hold?
 2. In what two ways does Abram (Abraham) acknowledge Melchizedek's superiority?
 3. Verse 4 is key to a major message of the book of Hebrews. Read Hebrews 5:1-11 and 7:1-6. Why was it necessary that Christ be a Priest "in the order of Melchizedek"? Which Christmas carols remind us of the ancestry of Jesus which prevents Him from being a priest in the normal Jewish manner?
 4. What significance, if any, do you see in what Melchizedek brought (Genesis 14:18)?
- iii. In the first stanza God (the Lord) was performing the actions (fulfilling the promises). Read the first phrase of verse 5 very carefully noting the positions mentioned. Who is performing the actions in verses 5-7?
 1. Why are these actions somewhat surprising given the role just announced for Christ in verse 4? Would you expect conquering and judging to usually be done by a king or by a priest?
 2. One of the great benefits of reading the Old Testament is what we can learn from the lives of the individuals described. A somewhat underappreciated figure is Benaiah. Read 1 Chronicles 27:5, 2 Samuel 23:20-23, 1 Chronicles 18:17, and 1 Kings 2:35. How does Benaiah demonstrate that God can (does) use priests in ways we sometimes don't expect?

e. Thursday:

- i. Start by reading and meditating on Psalm 110 again today.
- ii. In your understanding, what does this Psalm teach us about God's sovereignty and authority? Who do they apply to? How should this influence how we live?
- iii. As you read Psalm 110 seems clear that not all of the events described occurred in the years immediately following that first Christmas.
 1. What parts of Psalm 110 are connected with Jesus's first coming?
 2. Which will occur at his second coming?
 3. In what ways is it good that Jesus will fulfill all of Psalm 110 at two separate times?
- iv. Verse 1 tells us that Christ is sitting at the right hand of God (because all of His enemies have not been defeated (see 1 Corinthians 15:26) but it doesn't tell us what He is doing there. For that information see Romans 8:34, Hebrews 7:25, 9:24, 1 Timothy 2:5, and 1 John 2:1.
 1. What does this mean to you? How does it strengthen and assure you in your walk as a Christian?



2. Jesus didn't wait until He was at the Father's right hand to start this work. Read John 17:20-26. What does it mean to you that Jesus began praying for you personally while He was still on earth? How does what He prays tie into things we have studied earlier this week?

f. **Friday:**

- i. Before finishing with Psalm 110, let's focus on the special meaning of Advent presented this week. The third Sunday is traditionally about Joy and the Shepherds.
- ii. Read the account of the angels appearing to the shepherd in Luke 2:8-18. What reasons for joy can you find in these verses?
 1. Read Luke 9:31, Acts 7:55, and 2 Corinthians 3:16-18. Why does God revealing His glory in verse 9 bring us joy?
 2. Read John's Prologue (John 1:1-14) and John 3:16 (or better still say it from memory). What is the "good news of great joy" the angels announce in verse 10? Why is it the ultimate source of joy?
 3. As we considered Psalm 110 two roles for Christ have been mentioned. What additional one is presented in verse 11 of Luke 2? Read Matthew 1:21, John 3:17, 4:42, Acts 5:31, 13:23, 1 Timothy 4:10, and 1 John 4:14? Why does this announcement give us great joy?
 4. Read Revelation 5:13 and John 17:1-5. How do the angels provide the correct emphasis on where we should focus in this season, and at all times? Why does this bring us joy?
- iii. Hebrews 12:1-2 presents what to the world seems like an impossible application of "joy". How would you see the shepherd's response to their experience as described in verse 17 relating to these verses in Hebrews and to Matthew 28:18-20? Is it possible to truly and properly celebrate Christmas without some mission's emphasis (what was Jesus in His incarnation)?

g. **Saturday:**

- i. Read Psalm 110 one more time.
 - ii. This Psalm is one of the most quoted in the New Testament. Read these passages: Matthew 22:44-45, Mark 12:35-37, Luke 20:41-44, Acts 2:34-36, 1 Corinthians 15:25-28, Ephesians 1:22, Hebrews 1:13, 5:6, 7:17, and 7: 21.
 1. What are the two main truths taught in these passages?
 2. How do they apply to your life?
4. **Application:** Spend time this week prayerfully considering what it means to live under the Lordship of Christ as presented in Psalm 110. Are there things about your life that need to change? Does the way Christmas is emphasized and celebrated need to be adjusted?

5. **Prayer Points:**

- a. Adoration – Psalms 8:1 and 29:1-2
- b. Confession – Proverbs 28:13 and 1 John 1:8-10
- c. Thanksgiving – Psalms 95:1-2 and 100:4-5
- d. Supplications –Matthew 21:22 and John 16:19