

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

My dear beloved flock, the text for our meditation today is the Gradual Psalm Twenty-four verses seven through ten. King David proclaimed: ⁷ *Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.* ⁸ *Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!* ⁹ *Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.* ¹⁰ *Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory! Selah*

Boys and Girls I pray that you are doing well today. Who is your favorite superhero? Maybe it's Spider man, Superman, Wonder woman, Batman, or Green Lantern. We have a lot of favorites. What do superheroes do? They save people. They save people who cannot save themselves from the bad guy, the villain, oppressing them. The same is true of us. Jesus saves us. How? What did Jesus do for you? He rose again from the dead, right! We get to tell that to people the wonderous news of the promises of God. That He as our King of glory saves us. How can we spread that wonderous news, whether young or old? Ponder that question as you hear the rest of the sermon. You may go back to your seats and those who love you.

We need salvation!

We need salvation because of what Adam and Eve did. We need salvation from the curse of the sin of disobedience and lawlessness, brought upon humanity in the Garden, thereby plunging all humanity into sin, original and actual. "Sin is every thought, desire, word, and deed which is contrary to God's Law" as we have learned in the Word of God and Luther's Small Catechism.

The world has been in the throes of sinful behavior since the ‘Fall.’ Oftentimes we make believe our times are the worst of times. Surely, we have seen some horrific and horrible atrocities in our time: wars, the senseless killings of babies, children and adults; poverty, homelessness, addictions, every kind of evil one can imagine. We would surely give up, but for the grace of God.

We need someone to save us. Much like your every day populous in a superhero movie, we are powerless before the villain, Satan, because of our sinful natures. God has promised and given us Someone greater than a superhero, our Redemptive King.

Salvation comes through the King of Glory!

Throughout human history, God pictured the coming redemptive King through various images of His promise, providence, provision, and protection for His people. David saw God’s redemptive glory in the return of the Ark of the Covenant from Obed Edom to Jerusalem to the place of worship. God’s sanctuary was now in Zion, the Temple. Meaning the glory of the Lord coming to His people.

This redemption, proclaimed in the name of the Lord for God’s people, crushed the evil head of Satan, sin, and our sinful flesh and returned us to Himself in His reconciling Word, worship and witness of His Son, Jesus, [Savior from sin] Emmanuel [God with us].

We get to proclaim that King of Glory!

This LWML Sunday, let's remember the main goal of the LWML. The mission work of God's people — Christ's church is to proclaim the Gospel to all. We get to share the wonderous news through actions both great and small, that Jesus has defeated every single one of our enemies forever. Through the 'Gospel' (Romans 1:14–17), the people of God have received the power of God's salvation and are obligated to proclaim the Gospel to all people, to Greeks and to barbarians, to the wise and to the foolish. We proclaim what Jesus has done for us by His death and resurrection so that He may come to them as well by grace through faith.

A faith given as we are buried with Him in Baptism and raised with Him to a new life [Romans 6], and become new creations. (2 Cor. 5). In this new life creation, God provides us with every means of grace we need to fight off every kind of evil, with His word of "It is written." and His ultimate word, "It is finished." Through Word and Sacrament, God provides temporal and eternal means for receiving the King of glory right now and throughout eternity. The Gospel is the life-changing message of God for the world. It changed Martin Luther's life from one seeking to appease the wrath of God, by doing good works, to one who received the good grace of God in Christ, and who brought the Gospel back to the Church of God.

As we do good works in our lives to those around us, we show others that we have a God with skin on.

A little fearful child, sleeping alone in the darkness of her room, cried out to mom and dad as a storm rolled across her Midwest-town. "Mom, dad, come in here," she cried in the dark of night, as the storm rolled and roared as if it was in the room with her. Mom and dad consoled her and reminded her that they were in the next room and God is in the room with her so she need not fear. They encouraged her to go back to sleep. Awakened again and again by

the rolling and roaring storm, she said to her parents the last time they entered her room, “I know you said God is in here with me, but I need someone in here with skin on them. “

As we look through the heavenly eyes of the King of glory, in the darkness of our sinful world, then, we see clearly the promise, providence, provision, and protection of God for His people in Christ. A God with skin on Him. A God, who took on flesh and blood and the sin of humanity in His body, made His way down the road of agony, pain, and suffering, nailed to a tree, and died for the sins of the world. May this LWML Sunday remind us to be missionaries and share the Gospel throughout the world so that all will know of Christ, God's coming King of glory who provides redemption to all who believe in Him, everlasting life, now and in eternity.

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard and keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus Amen.