

## Psalm 93

Christ the King Year B  
Morning Prayer Sunday Week 3

This is a hymn to YHWH, reigning supreme over the powers of chaos. It may be from the time of the end of the Babylonian Exile, celebrating God's victorious reign over the gods and political powers of Babylon. It is also possible that it was composed to be sung on the occasion of a New Year re-enactment of God's act of creation. There is no title.

**<sup>1</sup>YHWH\* reigns as king,  
he is robed in majesty;  
YHWH is robed and  
girded with power.**

Deck yourself with majesty and dignity; clothe yourself with glory and splendour.

– Job 40:10

The Lord will take his zeal as his whole armour,  
and will arm all creation to repel his enemies;  
he will put on righteousness as a breastplate,  
and wear impartial justice as a helmet;  
he will take holiness as an invincible shield,  
and sharpen stern wrath for a sword,  
and creation will join with him  
to fight against his frenzied foes.

– Wisdom 5:17-20

Then the moon will be abashed, and the sun ashamed;  
for YHWH of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem,  
and before his elders he will manifest his glory.

– Isaiah 24:23

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns'

– Isaiah 52:7

The shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted.

– Psalm 47:9

YHWH is king! Let the earth rejoice; let the many coast lands be glad!

– Psalm 97:1

YHWH is king; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim;  
let the earth quake!

– Psalm 99:1

**He has established the  
world; it shall never be  
moved.**

Say among the nations, 'YHWH is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.'

– Psalm 96:10

By your power you establish the mountains; for you are girded with might. You silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples.

– Psalm 65:6-7

Thus says YHWH: 'Heaven is my throne and the earth is my footstool.'

– Isaiah 66:1

Thus says YHWH, who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar – YHWH of hosts is his name: If this fixed order were ever to cease from my presence, says YHWH, then also the offspring of Israel would cease to be a nation before me forever.

– Jeremiah 31:35-36

The psalmist is speaking of the power of chaos, whatever form it takes. In the ancient myth the war was between Tiamat (salt water Oceanus) and Apsu (fresh water Abyss).

Was your wrath against the rivers, YHWH? Or your anger against the rivers, or your rage against the sea, when you drove your horses, your chariots to victory? You came forth to save your people, to save your anointed. You crushed the head of the wicked house, laying it bare from foundation to roof.

– Habakkuk 3:8, 13

**<sup>2</sup>Your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting.**

**<sup>3</sup>The torrents swell, YHWH, the torrents roar, the torrents thunder.**

**<sup>4</sup>More majestic than the crashing of mighty waters, more majestic than the waves of the sea, is YHWH on high!**

**<sup>5</sup>Your decrees are most sure; holiness befits your house, YHWH forever more.**

### **As Christians we reflect on the reign of God through the power and glory of the risen Christ**

What is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.

– Ephesians 1:19-21

A windstorm arose on the sea, so great that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. And they went and woke him up, saying, 'Lord, save us! We are perishing!' And he said to them, 'Why are you afraid, you of little faith?' Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a dead calm. They were amazed, saying, 'What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?'

– Matthew 8:24-27 (compare Matthew 14:24-33)

We give you thanks, Lord God Almighty, who are and who were, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign.

– Revelation 11:17

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

– Revelation 21:1