

**Sing before the service:** Psalm 47:1, 4

Our help is in the Name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Beloved, grace and peace be to you from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, through the mighty working of God the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Psalm of praise 48:1, 4

Prayer

Psalm 33:7

Scripture reading: Revelation 5:11-14; Psalms 91

Scripture text: Psalms 91:1; Catechism Lord's Day 19

**He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.** (Psalms 91:1 NIV)

It deals with the King of the church – Jesus Christ our Lord.

- In the Old Testament we learn that the Lord rules over everything and that He controls history.
- The Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, as it appears in the New Testament, is not mentioned in the Old Testament.

Hence we are going to look at how exactly He rules over us according to the Scriptures.

We focus on two matters:

**1. Who is the Lord Jesus, the King of the church?**

**2. Where do we stand in relation to this King?**

**1. Who is the Lord Jesus, the King of the church?**

Since the time of the Paradise, the Lord Jesus Christ has been King of the church.

- The Lord told Eve about Him just after the fall of man when He promised that One of her offspring would crush the head of the serpent.
- Hence He was announced as the Conqueror and Defeater of the powers of hell.
- Hence He is the almighty King who would save Eve's descendants, living in enmity with the serpent, from all the devil's schemes against them.

Sometimes we speak about Jesus Christ without bearing in mind that He is God and that He is almighty.

- The Saviour who was promised in Genesis 15 – the Lord Jesus – did come to earth. Exactly as foretold and promised by God.
- This promise was totally fulfilled through Jesus' redemptive sacrifice on the cross – through which we have been granted the grace of God.
- He effected our salvation and He brought so much joy that we may – on earth already – live in the joy and power of his salvation.

*However, it is also true that the Lord Jesus is not only King of grace. At the same time He is the almighty God who has the regal power to cast out.*

We do not hear this so often.

- In sermons and discussions we usually only hear about Jesus who forgives sins.
- This might leave the impression that Jesus does not take such a firm line when we sin against his Word.

This is why some people think the Christian faith allows people to continue to sin, on condition that they believe, because the Lord Jesus will forgive them.

We should not take this out of context.

- Hence we should not only focus on the grace of Jesus over us, because his death and resurrection have another side as well.
- This is that Jesus is also God, who powerfully brings down everything that opposes God.
  - He is God who demands righteousness and repentance.
  - He punishes those who are disobedient.
- His punishment is so violent that He eventually destroys all the unbelievers.
  - He casts all the powers of the devil into the eternal lake of burning sulphur – hell.

This is why we also confess that Jesus sits on the right hand of his Father. We find this in Ephesians 1:20-22:

- **which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead**
- **and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given,**
- **not only in the present age but also in the one to come.**
- **And God placed all things under his feet**
- **and appointed him to be head over everything for the church,**  
(Ephesians 1:20-22 NIV)

From this passage in the Scriptures it is clear that God reveals his power over the church and the governing of the church through the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Or we can put it like this: God governs through the Lord Jesus Christ.
- This is also the symbolic significance of the words:  
**and seated him at his right hand.**

The fact that the Lord Jesus sits on the right hand side of the Father means that He reigns with the full power of God.

For the church this of course implies grace.

- For the believers it is confirmation of the fact that their Saviour is in complete control of history.
- But it also preaches severe judgment for absolutely everything outside of the church.

This agrees with 1 Corinthians 15:24-28.

**Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For he “has put everything under his feet.” Now when it says that “everything” has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.**

It says that the end will come only when the Lord Jesus hands over the kingdom to his Father.

- This handover only happens after Jesus has destroyed all dominion, authority and power on earth.
- Look at what is emphasised: The Lord Jesus reigns as King who puts all his enemies under his feet.

Hence Jesus is God who judges.

- He conquers and destroys.
- But at the same time He builds a kingdom (v. 24, 25).

He does this because as King He reigns over all power, even death (v. 25, 26).

- We also confess this: He will come to judge the living and the dead.
- Through Him God reigns over absolutely everything.

## **2. Where do we stand in relation to this King?**

The truly faithful – we – do not have to fear the judgment of the Lord Jesus.

- This does not mean that nobody will be judged by the Lord Jesus.
- Fact is that everybody who rejects Him and lives in sin like unbelievers will come in conflict with the Lord Jesus Christ.
- In other words, if we don't care about repentance we will be faced by the all-powerfulness of his judgment.

You must now look at the grace that is revealed through all these things.

- For the truly faithful, Jesus is the Provider of grace.
- He fills us to the measure of all the fullness of God's grace.
- He sends the Holy Spirit to guide us until we eventually arrive in heaven.

The gifts we receive from the Lord Jesus Christ are similar to his nature – immortal and indestructible.

- In John 7:38 we learn that the Lord Jesus said that whoever believes in Him, streams of living water will flow from within him.
- Verse 39 says it refers to those who were to receive the Holy Spirit – and we know that we are among those people.

Now look at the comfort built into these matters.

- The result of all these is that the Lord (your King) will not forsake you when you are in trouble.
- The Lord Jesus, the Almighty, preserves you so that you will not miss the grace of God when you die.
- This means that we who are so weak will not be lost, because God will always protect and preserve us.

We have many enemies. Actually, we have only one enemy – the devil, but with his hatred he attacks us in many ways:

- He uses people, sickness, war, stress, hatred and envy, even disbelief and doubt.
- He tries absolutely everything to separate us from the Lord.

But now the almighty and saving God teaches us through his word and his Spirit that his omnipotence exceeds all bounds, and that everything – even the devil and his powers – are subject to his power.

- The Lord Jesus can protect you against everything that attacks you.
- And then: God is not love only.
  - He has the will and the desire to destroy all evil.
  - Hence He wants to remove from his kingdom everything that threatens us.

God's Kingship divides the entire creation into two parts – the part that loves Him and the part that hates Him.

- He protects those who love Him.
- He destroys those who hate Him.

The King of the universe comforts you by ensuring you that He protects you and that you belong to Him.

- But He also warns against self-deceit.
- Do not put your mind at ease with regard to the love of the Lord Jesus and then live like a devil.
- The devils will receive no mercy, and they will be destroyed.

Let's read together Catechism Lord's Day 19 – where we confess matters regarding the omnipotence of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**50. Q. Why is it added, And sits at the right hand of God?**

A. Christ ascended into heaven to manifest Himself there as Head of His Church,[1] through whom the Father governs all things.[2]

[1] Eph. 1:20-23; Col. 1:18. [2] Matt. 28:18; John 5:22, 23.

**51. Q. How does the glory of Christ, our Head, benefit us?**

A. First, by His Holy Spirit He pours out heavenly gifts upon us, His members.[1] Second, by His power He defends and preserves us against all enemies.[2]

[1] Acts 2:33; Eph. 4:7-12. [2] Ps. 2:9; 110:1, 2; John 10:27-30; Rev. 19:11-16.

**52. Q. What comfort is it to you that Christ will come to judge the living and the dead?**

A. In all my sorrow and persecution I lift up my head and eagerly await as judge from heaven the very same person who before has submitted Himself to the judgment of God for my sake, and has removed all the curse from me.[1] He will cast all His and my enemies into everlasting condemnation, but He will take me and all His chosen ones to Himself into heavenly joy and glory.[2]

[1] Luke 21:28; Rom. 8:22-25; Phil. 3:20,21; Tit. 2:13, 14. [2] Matt. 25:31-46; I Thess. 4:16, 17; II Thess. 1:6-10.

**Amen.**

Closing prayer

Closing hymn: Psalm 25:2, 6

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Amen.**

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