



MORRISON ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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November 25, 2012
Endtime 4 - Christ the King
Sermon Text: [Psalm 45](#)
Pastor Randy Ott

First Lesson: [Daniel 7:13, 14](#)
Psalm of the Day: [Psalm 45](#)
Second Lesson: [Revelation 1:4b-8](#)
Gospel Lesson: [John 18:33-37](#)

Overflow With Praise for Our King

Because of the glory of his victory
Because he makes us his bride

In Christ Jesus, dear fellow redeemed:

If you have ever looked at some of the small italics at the bottom of the supplement hymns, or if you've ever been in a choir and sang choir pieces and during choir, when you're not talking when the other parts are rehearsing, if you've looked at the headings on some of the choir pieces, a lot of times these songs are written because they were commissioned and dedicated for a certain event. Like an anniversary, to honor some person who was retiring, or things like that. Maybe you've seen it, maybe you haven't, but believe me, it's there.

In a very real sense, [Psalm 45](#) is the Lord commissioning the Sons of Korah to write a wedding song. Not just for the kings that are the sons of the descendants of David, but for the descendant of David. A commissioned piece that points us to what the relationship of Christ the King is to his bride, the church. When you consider some of the pictures that are in [Psalm 45](#), there is a lot more there than what we just sang when we sang a portion of the Psalm earlier. It's just amazing.

It's amazing how God describes Jesus so completely 1,000 years before he was born. It's also amazing what he says about you and me. If you look at us, we are not what he describes here. *The King is enthralled by your beauty?* That's what it says about the bride of Christ. Honestly, we aren't all that good looking, are we? So what is he talking about here? *Your clothes are embroidered with gold?* That isn't us, right? But when you consider what it's talking about here, it's really amazing.

[Psalm 45](#) is in the middle of a section by the Sons of Korah. The Sons of Korah were one of the Levitical choir groups. There was Asaph, Ethan the singer, Heman the singer. These were these different groups. There's a lot of Psalms by Asaph or the Sons of Asaph. We are in the middle of [Psalms 42-49](#) that are all by the Sons of Korah. Levitical choir singers. This one has a heading, a wedding song. It's the only Psalm in Scripture that has that heading. It's an amazing Psalm to read.

It starts out by saying, *"My heart is stirred by a noble theme as I recite my verses for the king; my tongue is the pen of a skillful writer."* Literally it's my tongue is the pen of a rapid writer. He's got an amazing message and he can't wait to get it out. My heart is

stirred literally is the picture of a boiling pot. Stirred is more bubbly. It's bubbling over. It's overflowing. He's talking about overflowing with praise and he just can't wait to get it out.

When you and I are at our best, when we consider what God is and what he has done for us, that's what we are... overflowing with praise for our God. So this morning we look at these words and we think about how God is telling us to overflow with praise for our King because of who he is and what he has done and how he has won this victory that is unlike any other victory. And because of what he makes us. He makes all of us his bride, the church.

The words that are written there can be applied to a king, I suppose. Until you get to [Verses 6 and 7](#). Then you have a bit of a problem because in [Verses 6 and 7](#) it says, "*Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom. You love righteousness and hate wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.*" Kings were anointed, so that makes sense. God was certainly their God. But here it calls in [Verse 6](#) the king God. *Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever.* We might say maybe they talked that way to their king even though they knew they weren't supposed to, but I doubt it. This is inspired by the Holy Spirit. This isn't just the work of people writing this. The Sons of Korah wrote this directed by God.

In Hebrews, the inspired writer to the Hebrews takes these verses, [Verses 6 and 7](#), and applies them to Jesus. It says God never said this of any angels or anyone else but of his Son he said *Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever.* ([Hebrews 1:8.](#)) So the Holy Spirit himself tells us that [Psalm 45](#), even though it might have been used for the wedding banquet of some kings in Israel, in the wedding ceremony so to speak, ultimately the Holy Spirit gave it because he wanted us to focus on Jesus.

So we see Jesus is a king unlike any other. He comes and he rules with a scepter of justice as the scepter of his kingdom. His throne lasts forever and ever. No earthly king's throne lasts forever and ever. But Jesus' does because Jesus rode out victoriously on behalf of truth, humility and justice. Jesus came and he did what needed to be done to buy us back from our sins. As our King, he conquered our enemy. Our enemies were sin, death and the devil. He conquered them, not by sending people on chariots or horses, but by willingly standing before Pilate and saying, "My kingdom isn't of this world. My kingdom is eternal and it's spiritual and it's about paying for your sins." ([John 18:36.](#)) Many, many have not understood that. Many have looked for something different, something earthly, but Jesus told us his kingdom is not of this world.

This picture tells us its about spiritual things. *You love righteousness and hate wickedness.* Our God is concerned about holiness. Our God says be holy as he is holy. ([Leviticus 19:2.](#)) Jesus said be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect. ([Matthew 5:48.](#)) You and I are not perfect. Because we don't have the right garments to get into the wedding feast, Jesus came and provided them. He lived in our place, died

in our place, took away our sins. So great is his love that then the Psalmist describes it as *"You are the most excellent of men and your lips have been anointed with grace, since God has blessed you forever."* *You are the most excellent of men...* some translate it *You are the most beautiful of men.* That's where the hymn you're probably familiar with, [Beautiful Savior](#), comes from. It was that verse that led a hymn writer many years later to write the hymn [Beautiful Savior](#). What makes our Savior beautiful is the work he has done to win the victory over sin, death and the devil for us.

His beauty comes not in the gold, but what this Psalm tells us is that his beauty that he longs for, that he came to win, is found in front of you and behind you and beside you. I don't know if you caught that when I read it to you, but it says *"the king is enthralled by your beauty."* It's talking about the King's bride. The bride of Christ is the church. That's what [Ephesians 5](#) tells us. So the king is enthralled with your beauty.

Jesus Christ who is righteous and holy from all eternity, who had to suffer and die to take away your sins, isn't grumbling and complaining because he had to do that. Instead, he's thrilled and enthralled with what it has made you.

Isn't that just an amazing thought? That Jesus, who lives in the glory of heaven, gazes upon us with all of our imperfections, with all of our sins, with all of our complaints, with all of our worries, with all of our struggles, and he sees people that are beautiful because they are clothed with his perfection. Think about that. When you see each other, do you see that? Or do you see people that are at times annoying, maybe a little whiney, maybe a bit of a pain where you sit, people that just are sinners, right? If our conquering King looks at us and says we're beautiful, maybe, maybe we should see that in each other also. What a glorious truth our God has given us.

He talks in these glowing pictures about how in embroidered garments we are led to the king. We are led in joy with gladness, and all these things. What our King has made us is just incredible. We should thrill that our King rules not to establish things on this earth, because this earth is always going to be full of sin. Where there is sin, there are problems. Where there are problems, there are struggles. You and I, as sinners, at times we are going to sin against each other and against our God. We are going to get annoyed with each other. We are going to get irritated with each other. But Jesus Christ won the victory. He took away every last one of these sins that we have committed.

When we are honest with ourselves and we consider this and we see this, then we get bubbly. We get overflowing with praise. Our heart is stirred by a noble theme, and we want to praise our God. Today, just like at the time [Psalm 45](#) was written, one of the ways we do it is with music. It's a wonderful way to praise our God, to give expression to the joy that's in our hearts. We give expression to that joy. How blessed they were to have the Sons of Korah, the Sons of Asaph, these people that led them in this worship in the temple. I have to believe when they left their temple worship, they were floating on air because they were again directed to God's love for them in the coming Messiah.

You and I are directed to God's love in Christ through the music that blesses our worship. Our congregation has been blessed with faithful Sons of Korah, faithful singers, faithful musicians and faithful people who lead us in that worship. As we are going to look at one another and finally be convinced that just like God looks at us that we want to be enthralled by each other's beauty that is Jesus Christ, remember to give thanks also for those who serve us musically.