

Meditation on Psalm 47:1-9

*God is king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm!*

Psalm 47 was used in liturgical processions to the Temple, celebrating the kingship of God over all creation. The earth belongs to God as creator. Human beings are beneficiaries of the order God established in nature; they share God's gifts in creation along with all that exists. Everything in nature has the footprint of God, for creation is brought forth from God's will and knowledge, manifestation of his nature as love. Psalmist praises God for choosing his people Israel, the recipient of his plan for all humankind, electing them and inviting them to a covenant relationship with God.

Psalm invites all in the world to meditate on God's amazing work in creating the world and human beings, how we are all interconnected and oriented toward God. Human heart erupts in singing, praising God's love and move to build a world according to God's gracious will for us. Contemplating the magnificence of space, universe alone is reason for proclaiming, 'how awesome God is!' Psalmist sees the incredible order in creation as sign of God's reign over all. Humans as stewards of earth should respect the order, balance that God set in motion in the universe. Jesus showed us that this reign of God is about the kingdom of God: order, stability in personal life and in the world, built by love, peace and justice.

God as king of the universe functions as ruler of the world. Since creation is a product of God's love, accepting God's rule would mean embracing God's love for us and for the entire creation. This psalm of praise is like children praising and thanking their parents for life, love and care; though the parents don't need it, such outreach by children strengthens the bond of love between parents and children. Similarly our praises and thanksgiving to God deepen our relationship of love with God and broaden our hearts to embrace all in love, all in creation! When human actions reflect God's law [reign], there is harmony in personal life and in the world!

Father Jose