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According to tradition, this morning's Psalm is not just a prophecy of the Lord's Ascension into heaven but is part of the welcome given to our Lord while He is ascending into heaven. It is as if this psalm is a recording, and we are allowed to eavesdrop on the conversation the angels had while Jesus ascends into heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father. The angels sing to each other, *Who is this King of Glory? It is the Lord strong and mighty, even the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors and the King of glory shall come in.*

St. Augustine goes even further and explains that this Psalm tells us *that when our Christ rose from the dead and ascended to heaven, the rulers in heaven, under appointment of God, are commanded to open the gates of heaven, ...For when the rulers of heaven saw Him of uncomely and dishonored appearance, when they saw Him in glorified Human flesh and bone, and the scars of the crucifixion in His hands, feet, and side, they asked, 'who is this King of glory?' and the Holy Spirit, either from the person of His Father, or from His own person, answers them "The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory."* St. Augustine even considers what if it was Lucifer who asked, 'who is this King of glory', he is after all who St. Paul refers to as *the prince of the power of the air*. Yet, the same Jesus who was tempted by Satan in the wilderness now *marches above him, He who was tempted by the [fallen] angel, the deceiver, goes above all angels.*

*Who is this King of glory?* He is God Incarnate, God made man through Jesus Christ, the crucified and resurrected Son of God, He who was dead and buried, who descended into hell and rose again, our flesh and blood, and ascended with His glorified flesh and blood into heaven, past the stars, planets, and angels, and now glorified flesh and blood sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. The prophet Daniel gives us another glimpse of this moment, *thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened...and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought Him near before Him. And there was given Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.*

Jesus tells us Himself, *Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I*

*depart, I will send Him unto you.* He has ascended into His heavenly kingdom so that the Holy Spirit can descend upon each one of us. He is enthroned in heaven so that the He through the Holy Spirit can be enthroned in our hearts. He is *the Lord strong and mighty, even the Lord mighty in battle*, He is mighty in battle to save His people, and to subdue our spiritual enemies, and to subdue our hearts. And in subduing our hearts we apply this psalm to Christ's entrance into our souls by His Word and Spirit, making us temples of His Holy Spirit. When we wrestled with our faith, of owning this faith as ours we asked *Who is this King of glory?* And when we accepted Christ and His teaching we sang with the angels, *lift up your heads O ye gates, and be ye lifted up ye everlasting doors, and the King of Glory shall come in.* And this very morning, *He stands at the door and knocks*, desiring to enter into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, through the Body and Blood which we receive this morning from His altar.

The gates and doors of our hearts are to be opened to Him, after all, our hearts rightfully belong to Him. The Psalmist asks, *Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who shall rise up in his holy place?* The Church throughout the octave of the Ascension prays that we may *in heart and mind thither ascend and with Him continually dwell.* The Church tells us that this is not just intended for Jesus, nor is it intended for us only at the Resurrection of the Dead, but that we are to begin our ascent with Christ today. And as we look forward to the feast of Pentecost, this morning we pray specifically that God will *send the Holy Ghost to comfort us, and to exalt us unto the same place whither our Saviour Christ is gone before.* To follow where Christ has gone before us, to make room in our hearts for the coming of the Holy Spirit, St. Peter calls us to be *good stewards of the manifold grace of God...to be sober, to watch unto prayer...and above all things to have charity...to use hospitality one to another...that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ.* For who can ascend into the hill of the Lord? Who can follow after Christ and ascend in heart and mind into the courts of heaven, but he who has clean hands, clean from the stains of sin, and a pure heart? The pure in heart shall not just see God, but shall ascend into heaven, *that where He is, so shall we ever be.*

Perhaps this week we were tempted to ask not just *Who is this King of Glory?* but *"where is this King of Glory?"* in the midst of this week's great tragedy. It is important to remember that we confess and believe that Jesus Christ, Himself the victim of a violent and cruel death is enthroned at the right hand of God the Father, there making intercession for us all. We confess and believe that having descended in power on the day of Pentecost through the Holy Spirit, God is everywhere

present, and in the hearts of all those who will enthrone Him in their hearts. This week we saw the effects of a heart that did not enthrone the Holy Spirit in his heart. And yet, Jesus was there in the midst of that tragedy, in that very classroom.

Let us pray, *O Lord, open the everlasting door of our souls by thy grace, that we may now receive thee, and be wholly thine: and that, at length, we may be numbered with thy saints in glory. Amen.*