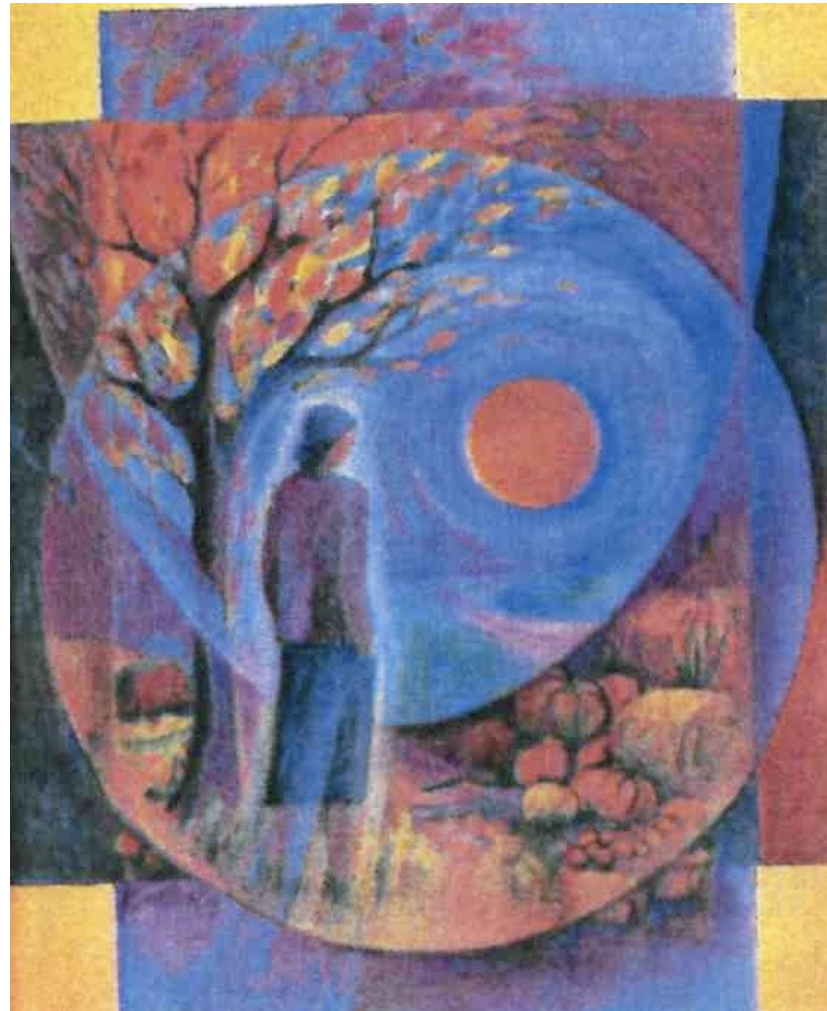


Psalm 96: Let the heavens be glad and earth rejoice



Psalm 96 (95) (Mode 5. 5..6..1 / 1....6 / 6...5)

This is the fourth in a series of psalms to the Lord as king (93-99). The psalmist calls the heavens and the earth and all peoples to acclaim the Lord the Creator who is coming to judge the world. God's reign is universal, serene and secure.

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Sing to the Lord, all the earth.

bless God's holy name!

‘See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them. Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise from the end of the earth! Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the coast lands and their inhabitants’(Isaiah 42:9-10)

‘I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert’(Isaiah 43:19).

‘You have heard; now see all this; and will you not declare it? From this time forward I make you hear new things, hidden things that you have not known.’

(Isaiah 48:6)

Proclaim God's help each day.

Tell among the nations God's glory,

God's marvellous deeds all over the world.

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;  
to be revered above all the gods.

Yes, the gods of the world are idols.

Isaiah 2:8,18,20; 31:7

It was the Lord who made the heavens,

the Lord of majestic light

who fills the temple with beauty.

‘I have told the glad news of deliverance  
in the great congregation’(Psalm 40:9).

‘Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of  
good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O  
Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not  
fear; say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God!’

(Isaiah 40:9)

‘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).

Acknowledge the Lord, you nations,  
acknowledge the Lord's glory and strength.

Acknowledge the glory due to the Lord!

Bring an offering, and enter the courts.

Worship the Lord in holy splendour.

Tremble before God, all the earth.

Say among the nations, 'The Lord is king!'

The world is firmly established.

The Lord will judge the peoples with equity.

‘Many peoples shall come and say, ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths’(Isaiah 2:3).

‘Foreigners who join themselves to the Lord ... I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.’(Isaiah 56:6-7)

Let the heavens rejoice and be glad,  
let the sea and all within it roar,  
Let the land and all it bears rejoice.

Then will all the trees of the forest  
sing for joy before the Lord,  
who is coming to judge the nations.

God rules the world with justice.  
It is according to the truth  
that God judges the nations.



‘Sing, O heavens, for the Lord has done it; shout, O depths of the earth; break forth into singing, O mountains, O forest, and every tree in it!’(Isaiah 44:23)

‘Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing!’(Isaiah 49:13).

‘The mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands’(Isaiah 55:12).

On the reign of God compare the following:

‘In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you.’

(2 Timothy 4:1)

- the reign of God the Father

‘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).

‘Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Messiah ... Rejoice then, you heavens and those who dwell in them!’(Revelation 12:10,12)

‘Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns’(Revelation 19:6)

- the reign of Jesus the Son of God

‘God has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead’(Acts 17:31).

‘The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign forever’(Rev. 11:15).

‘He must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet’(1Corinthians 15:25).

‘He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son’.

(Colossians 1:13)

- we are called to share in this reign.

‘You have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth’(Revelation 5:10).

‘Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. Over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him a thousand years’(Revelation 20:6).

‘They will reign forever and ever’(Revelation 22:5).