

**“HOW MAJESTIC IS YOUR NAME!”**

Psalm 8

Dear Friends in our Risen and now Ascended Lord,

What's in a name? Well, let's see.

If I say **Ryan Braun or Bob Uecker** – you think of Brewers. If I say: **Ted Thompson or Aaron Rodgers** – you think of Packers. If I say: **Melissa Langbehn or Amy Pflugshaupt**, you think of news anchors on our local TV stations. If I say: **Jim Tipple or Scott Walker**, you think of city & state leaders. If I say: **David Bode or Bill Leerssen**, you think WHO?

What's in a name is a familiarity of a person because you know them, work with them, watch them, hear them, play/fish with them, or live with them. They are your friends, relatives, sports heroes, political leaders, TV personalities, families, or just household names. Sometimes you just recognize the name and sometimes you actually know the person behind the name. But what's in a name is as important as knowing the name.

Last Thursday was the festival of the **Ascension of our Lord**. Even though it was our Lutheran School's graduation service, there still was a celebration of this fading festival mostly by parents and friends of our school. So to give the rest of you members the opportunity to commemorate Ascension, we are continuing the theme of Jesus' return to heaven by focusing on the Psalm 8. And from this Psalm, we focus on the name of the LORD and learn:

**“HOW MAJESTIC IS YOUR NAME!”***(Read the text)*

1. O **LORD**, our Lord, **how majestic is your** name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.
2. From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.
3. When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
4. What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?
5. You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.
6. You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet:
7. All flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field,
8. The birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.
9. O **LORD**, our Lord, **how majestic is your name** in all the earth!

David starts this psalm on a high note with the main theme of how **THE NAME OF THE LORD IS MAJESTIC OVER ALL THE EARTH! YOU HAVE SET YOUR GLORY ABOVE THE HEAVENS!** Majestic means **very grand, dignified, lofty, stately, magnificent, superb**. To have this description placed on your name takes some real doing. There must be several reasons why David would classify the name of the Lord this way.

One reason is how the Lord brought all things into being: **WHEN I CONSIDER YOUR HEAVENS, THE WORK OF YOUR FINGERS, THE MOON AND THE STARS, WHICH YOU HAVE SET IN PLACE.** The glory of the Lord is evident in how he created this world and universe with orderly precision. He spoke and it happened. He put the sun, moon, and stars where they are. He created earth, planets, galaxies, the universe. He molded plants, animals, creatures, continents, mountains, canyons, oceans, streams, man, and woman. He keeps them functioning day after day since then.

The sun, moon, and stars testify to God's majesty and wisdom. Astronomers claim there are 100 billion galaxies and that each galaxy has more than 100 billion stars. Each one was hung in its place by the Creator who calls each one by its name. Psalm 19:1 says: **The heavens declare the glory of God, the skies proclaim the work of his hands.**

Another reason why David classifies the majesty of God's name is in the way the Lord is praised in this psalm not just by huge galaxies but also by tiny babies. **FROM THE LIPS OF CHILDREN AND INFANTS YOU HAVE ORDAINED PRAISE BECAUSE OF YOUR ENEMIES, TO SILENCE THE FOE AND THE AVENGER.** More precious than the galaxies are the simple prayers and songs of infants and children like a grandson who folds his hands to pray before eating or a granddaughter who always wants her "Baby Jesus" book read every time she's over or the youngster who sings: "**Jesus Loves Me This I Know**".

**HOW MAJESTIC IS GOD'S NAME** from the lips of children and infants that stifles the skeptics and enemies of God. While scholars debate whether Jesus' words are true or his death/resurrection mean anything, or liberal professors teach their atheistic, humanistic teaching to their classes, God's children today join the children of Palm Sunday shouting: **HOSANNA TO THE SON OF DAVID, BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!**

The best reason for David's praise of the name of the Lord is in the creation of man. Everything was perfect, including Adam and Eve. **No sin, no strife, no sickness, no issues, and no death** described their lives with God and each other.

But that peace was shattered by the fall into sin and perfection imploded in the Garden of Eden. Now Adam and Eve were sinful and their lives and our world has shown it ever since. Besides nature, disease, illness, crime, wars, hatred, and strife to deal with, we have ourselves as our worst enemies. Our thoughts, words, and actions reflect a nature that is at war with God and each other. Families divided, marriages split, parents abusive, children rebellious, employers unfair, employees dishonest – there's a category for all of us.

And with that is the all-inclusive category of hell's judgment reserved for all who disobey the Lord. This powerful machine called the human will die and return to the ground it came from. David makes a good point: **WHAT IS MAN THAT YOU ARE MINDFUL OF HIM, THE SON OF MAN THAT YOU CARE FOR HIM? Lord, why even bother with me? I am nothing but a dust molecule compared to the backdrop of the universe. Why do you even care?** Let's face it – there's not a whole lot of majesty in us, is there?

**Psalm 8 is a Messianic Psalm.** What that means is that its message points to a Savior, a Messiah whom God sent as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam, the Son of Man, in order to regain our perfection lost in the fall. So David provides the best reason yet for the majesty of God's name. **You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings...** God sent his Son, born of a woman, to stand in our shoes during his state of humiliation. Jesus did not look like God, but looked like any other human. Yet he was without sin. Even in that perfect state as God, he kept God's law pure and perfect. He then walked humbly to the cross where God's death sentence was carried out in our place. His enemies **abused** him, by, his disciples **abandoned** him, his people **rejected** him, His soldiers **mocked** him, and His Father **forsook** him. He became lower than low in order to pay the price for our sins and finally grab hold of God's forgiveness through His death that we could never grab for ourselves.

Then **GOD CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR** 3 days after as Christ's defeat of sin, death, and hell was declared to meet God's approval by a glorious resurrection from the grave. This Jesus, once lower than the angels, is now crowned with honor and glory, ruling over all things for the benefit of his people. **You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet: All flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, The birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.** As Philippians 2:9-11 says: "God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father".

Now Jesus rules and reigns over all things from his throne in heaven to where He ascended. His work now completed here, **Jesus' ascension** assures us that He is preparing our place in heaven and that he will return to take us there. As we await that great and glorious day, let's build our faith on Christ's ascension knowing that we will see the Lord in all his majesty with our own eyes. One day, we will experience the awesome majesty of The LORD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH. One day we will live **WITH THE LORD** forever. There the perfect peace of Eden will exist again and together, we will say **O LORD, OUR LORD, HOW MAJESTIC IS YOUR NAME IN ALL THE EARTH! AMEN.**

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**[Sunday 9:45 only]** The graduates from our church are pretty majestic today on this annual commemoration day. You have reached the next level of achievement, another rung on the long ladder of pursuing knowledge, sharpening your skills, and defining your careers. After graduation comes the next step. As you approach your future, do so in the same way you have gone to this point: **WITH THE NAME OF THE LORD.** Remember how majestic is His name in your life – first as your Savior and Lord in whom you trust for your salvation – and second as your Leader and Guide into the future where he will **reveal his plans to prosper and help you.**

May we all continue on that path to glory so when it is time to graduate from this life – the Lord will hand us the diploma of eternal life – not because we have accomplished anything, but because of His grace and mercy on us. And when we receive that diploma of glory, may we also praise him and say again: **O LORD, OUR LORD, HOW MAJESTIC IS YOUR NAME IN ALL THE EARTH! AMEN.**