



## Lesson 7: The Lord Reigns, Enthronement Psalms

Dear Fellow Travelers,

Following the U.S. presidential election, leaders of the newly elected administration announce their agenda for the next four years, outlining their plans in the State of the Union address in January.

The enthronement psalms also present an agenda, God's agenda. They imagine a new future, not just for one nation, but for the whole world: "Sing to the Lord, all the earth!" (Psalm 96:1). "The Lord reigns" is the central proclamation of the enthronement psalms. Under God's universal rule, in God's kingdom, justice will prevail for all. Many of our Easter hymns, such as "Christ the Lord Has Risen Today," build on this idea that God is sovereign over all. These hymns proclaim that the resurrection of Jesus transforms us and the world.

The problem with this picture of the future is that it challenges present oppressive structures. People resist this alternative vision of the world. What would it mean for our world today if we were to acknowledge God's universal rule? The hymn, "Easter People, Raise Your Voices" asserts that "every day to us is Easter." Is it? If not, why not? What stands in the way of our realizing the possibilities held out by the enthronement psalms and our Easter hymns? Fear of people different from us, national pride, greed, thirst for power, and ignorance are just some of the road blocks to this new way of our being in the world.

May Christ's Easter rising give you a renewed sense of the world that God intends for us.

*Denise*