



**ENTER** God's presence

**Psalm 93 (NRSV)**

- <sup>1</sup> The Lord is king; he is robed in majesty;  
the Lord is robed; he is girded with strength.  
He has established the world; it shall never be moved;
- <sup>2</sup> your throne is established from of old;  
you are from everlasting.
- <sup>3</sup> The floods have lifted up, O Lord,  
the floods have lifted up their voice;  
the floods lift up their roaring.
- <sup>4</sup> More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters,  
more majestic than the waves of the sea,  
majestic on high is the Lord!
- <sup>5</sup> Your decrees are very sure;  
holiness befits your house,  
O Lord, forevermore.

**Pray:** Lord God, you alone rule over all creation and in you every living thing finds its being. Be with us now as we read and discuss your word together. Help us to lay down our desire for power and authority in this life and to find comfort and confidence as we learn to live under your authority, grace, and love. Amen



**SHARE** life together

1. **Share your highs and lows since last time you met.**
2. **What would you say is your greatest ambition in life?**
3. **What do you think Jesus would have said was his greatest ambition during his life on earth?**

Week beginning:  
**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

Worship series:  
**Crossroad Choices**  
**#1 CROSS**



**VERSE** for the week

**When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?"**

Matthew 21:10



**REMEMBER** this week

**Jesus' presence shakes the very foundation of our lives so that only that which is unshakable remains.**



## LISTEN attentively

Read Matthew 21:1-11 in your own Bible or online at Bible Gateway [HERE](#)

4. ***What verse/concept/teaching in these readings caught your attention and what was challenging/confronting/comforting/revealing about it for you?***
5. ***Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem on a donkey or colt, was foretold in [Zechariah 9:9-13](#). Have a read of it. Knowing this prophecy, what do you think your expectations of Jesus would have been?***
6. ***Why do you think the whole city was stirred and asking 'Who is this'?***



## GROW deeper

Just like the rest of us, Jesus was constantly faced with choices to make. On this particular day, less than a week out from his eventual arrest and crucifixion Jesus had a choice. As John's gospel account points out, Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem caused the whole city to be stirred. There were certainly many who seemed to have decided Jesus was coming as a king to overthrow the ruling Roman authorities and he may well have had enough support to do exactly that, to take the golden crown of human authority and rule. Yet he chose another crown, a crown of humility and service, which in a few days would be manifested as a crown of thorns.

7. ***How often do you find the crown which serves self-interest diverts you from choosing the crown which leads you to serve others first?***
8. ***When have you been tempted to abandon Jesus and His authority in your life to go along with the influence of the crowd instead? How does that usually work out?***
9. ***If you had to describe your life of following Jesus as a hat or crown, what kind would it be? Is it a heavy awkward crown that's difficult to wear and heavy to carry? Perhaps it feels more like a comfortable and warming beanie, maybe you consider it more like a helmet which gives you protection? Share.***
10. ***Regardless of the type of hat you described, how often do you find yourself putting Jesus at the head of your life and allowing his authority to rule in your head and your heart? What are some of the alternative powers that sometimes take up residence in His place?***



## LIVE purposefully

Our daily lives are full of choices. Some choices are relatively insignificant like, what spread to have on your toast for breakfast. Others we know are more life altering such as who we might marry or where we might live or what job we take. Then there are those choices that maybe seem insignificant but have potential to change a life. Will I give the change in my wallet or purse to the person on the street, will I adhere to the speed limit or risk an accident by going a little faster. The way we make those choices is usually determined by which crown holds our allegiance.

11. ***Which power or authority do you most often chose to listen to – your own, the world's, Jesus – and how does that influence your decision making?***
12. ***The excited response of honour and praise for the king coming on a donkey caused others to question who Jesus was. How does your life of praise cause others to ask who Jesus is?***
13. ***How is Jesus shaking up things in our world or your own life at this present time and what reaction is that bringing?***

## MAKE IT REAL:

Part of our witness is how we recognise and let the rule and authority of Jesus play out in our lives. While this quote from Brennan Manning gets quoted all the time it still stands true today,

*“The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians who acknowledge Jesus with their lips and walk out the door and deny Him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable.”*

14. What is one power or authority in your life that Jesus' presence in your life might be trying to shake you free of?

a. \_\_\_\_\_

What are two practices or behaviours in your life that you could change that might make your life a greater witness to Jesus among your unbelieving friends and family?

Plan your weekly devotions or [download the Church Central app](#) for the daily **LifeWay Devotions**



**PRAY** intentionally

### WE PRAY ...

- Praise God for his eternal perspective, eternal love, and faithfulness in keeping his promises. Thank Jesus for moving with the power of love to save us. Ask the Holy Spirit to transform your heart and move in your life with the life of Jesus.
- Ask God to shake your life free from anything that is not of him.
- Ask him to bring his Word alive in your life in new ways during this time.
- Pray for the Easter services, that God would move those who are asking “Who is this?” to come and draw closer and witness a love that would choose a cross for them?
- Praise for the Leadership Team as they implement the recent decision to sell the Wollongong Church that God would provide a suitable space for a home for us.



**BLESS** one another

You might like to address one person in your group and make the sign of the cross on their forehead or on the palm of their hand as you say...

**[Name], may Jesus' crown of humility be evident in your life. Amen.**