

Monday, January 30, 2017 - Day 29 – Exodus 22-24, Psalm 24, Matt 25

“Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place?” (Ps. 24:3)

As this seemingly eternal question comes to the mind of the psalmist, I can't help but wonder if the author, perhaps, King David, is looking out over the city of Jerusalem as the Ark of the Covenant in majestic procession through the city gates to be placed in the temple...or could the poet simply be looking into a still pool of water at the reflection of their face?

In either case, it seems each of our readings for this day serve as vivid reminders that we, on our own, are incapable of ascending the holy hill of the Lord. Whether it's the “holy people” (Ex 22:31a) unable to keep from melting down their possessions to create idols and false gods because of their impatience and flagrant disobedience to the very covenant they willingly and in unison promised to keep saying “everything the Lord has said, we will do.” Or those who willingly ignore or waste the gift of the gospel.

The good news is the psalmist answers the question of who can stand in this holy place, with a clear and concise description of the qualifications necessary for ascending the hill of the Lord. “Whoever has clean hands and a pure heart. Whoever does not lift up their soul to an idol, or swear by what is false.”

The bad news is this answer disqualifies me...disqualifies you...disqualifies all of us...the good news is there is one who does qualify...The great news is the one who has clean hands and a pure heart...and has ascended the holy hill...and does stand in his holy place. This one invites us to follow him!!! Not because of who we are or what we've done, we're invited to follow Him because we acknowledge and confess who He is and what He has done...is doing...and will do.

Who is he, this king of glory? The Lord Almighty—He is the king of glory!!!

Alleluia, Alleluia...thanks be to God.

By The Rev. Jeffrey Moretzsohn