

Give the King Your Justice

The Psalm for the Epiphany of Our Lord is Psalm 72:1-11. It is a prayer for the king, a son of David who rules on David's throne as God's earthly ruler over his people. In Psalm 2 it speaks about how enemy kings would stir up a ruckus at the anointing of an Israelite King. Therefore, it would not be unusual to pray for the newly anointed king.

One of the highest priorities of the Lord was that rulers would be protectors of those under them, especially those who were at a disadvantage like widows and fatherless children. So it comes as no surprise that a basic part of prayer is *justice and righteousness* as is spoken of in the very first verse. It reflects the rule of God himself.

Verses 2-7 pretty much outline the various ways that *justice and righteous* will be taking shape. King's rule will be so extraordinary that it has a positive effect on the entire land, even the whole earth.

The new king's kingdom will reach to the full extent of the Promised Land. The farthest geographical extent of the land of Israel was achieved under the reign of Solomon. The nations of the then known world will also bring their riches.

It will ultimately extend to all the world. In the end this expectation will be fulfilled in Christ. This picture of the Promised Land pointed beyond itself to life in heaven. As we celebrate Epiphany we also remember Christ's Great Commission where he states that all authority in heaven and earth is his and he commands us to go out and make disciples of all nations. We as his followers are a part of that great command. We have been given his gifts and he empowers us to use them in sharing the great news.

Prayer: "Hail to the Lord's anointed, Great David's greater Son! Hail, in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun! He comes to break oppression, To set the captive free, To take away transgression And rule in equity."
Amen. (LSB 398:1) (TLSB)