

1st January 2023

Psalm 145

A psalm of praise. Of David.

- ¹ I will exalt you, my God the King;
I will praise your name for ever and ever.
- ² Every day I will praise you
and extol your name for ever and ever.
- ³ Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;
his greatness no one can fathom.
- ⁴ One generation commends your works to another;
they tell of your mighty acts.
- ⁵ They speak of the glorious splendour of your majesty—
and I will meditate on your wonderful works.
- ⁶ They tell of the power of your awesome works—
and I will proclaim your great deeds.
- ⁷ They celebrate your abundant goodness
and joyfully sing of your righteousness.
- ⁸ The LORD is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.
- ⁹ The LORD is good to all;
he has compassion on all he has made.
- ¹⁰ All your works praise you, LORD;
your faithful people extol you.
- ¹¹ They tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your might,
- ¹² so that all people may know of your mighty acts
and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.
- ¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures through all generations.
- The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises
and faithful in all he does.

- ¹⁴ The LORD upholds all who fall
and lifts up all who are bowed down.
- ¹⁵ The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food at the proper time.
- ¹⁶ You open your hand
and satisfy the desires of every living thing.
- ¹⁷ The LORD is righteous in all his ways
and faithful in all he does.
- ¹⁸ The LORD is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.
- ¹⁹ He fulfills the desires of those who fear him;
he hears their cry and saves them.
- ²⁰ The LORD watches over all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.
- ²¹ My mouth will speak in praise of the LORD.
Let every creature praise his holy name
for ever and ever.

Acts 2:42-47

The Fellowship of the Believers

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

G'Day Church Family

Please have your Bibles in front of you – we'll be looking at both Bible passages – from Psalm 145 and Acts 2.

There's an **outline** for you to **take notes** – if that helps you **concentrate**.

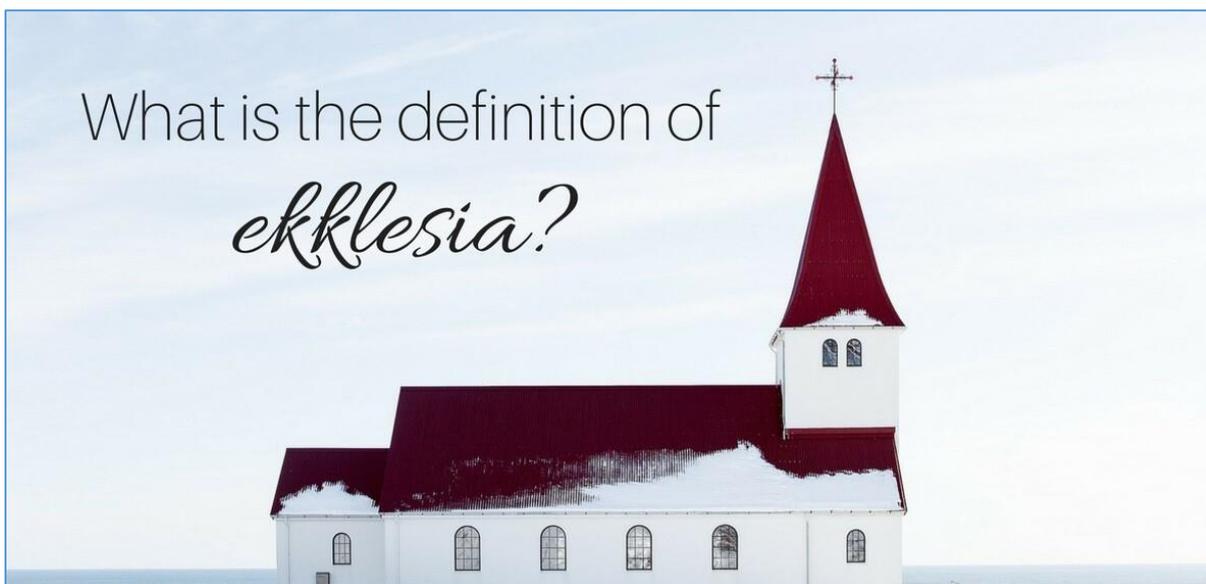
Let me ask **God** for His **help** and **guidance** first – let's **pray**...

Intro

This is the first of a **5-part series** on The **Church**

The **Church** in Greek it is **Ekklesia**

[Slide 1-Ekklesia definition]



Ekklesia - the church - is not a **building** – Ekklesia the **church** is:

A gathering of people “called out” from their homes into some public place – or assembly.

The **Ekklesia** – the **Church** is:

- An assembly of **Christians gathered together to worship God** – and who believe in our Lord Jesus = for the forgiveness of sins and for eternal life
- The Ekklesia – the Church – is the **whole body of Christians** – scattered throughout the world – aka - the universal church

[Slide 2-Called out ones]



In essence the **Ekklesia** – the **church** – are the “*called out ones*” – ‘called out’ to worship God and follow Jesus.

In our **5-part series** – over the next 5 Sundays - we’re going to see what the Church **IS** and what the Church **DOES**

[Slide 2a-5 e’s]

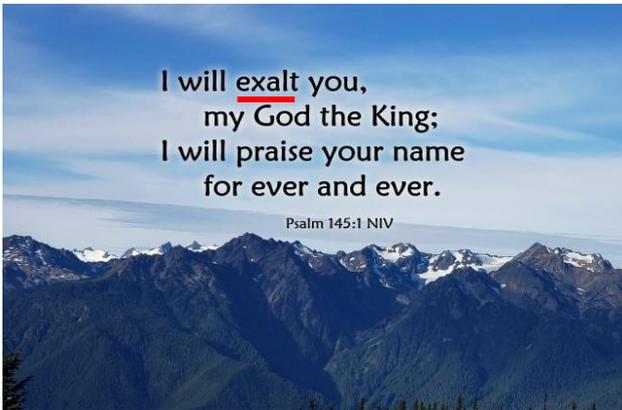


This 5-part series will show how the Church - **exalts, edifies, encourages, equips and evangelizes.**

So, in **Part 1** – The Church – **EXALTS**

From our 1st reading from Psalm 145 – King David says I will exalt my God the King

[Slide 3-exalt v1]



And the word **exalt** - in **Hebrew** means – *lift up high or raise up as high as one can*.

In other words, David wants to **put God on the highest pedestal** – and **speak as highly as he can** about God

So, let's look briefly at the Psalm and see – WHEN David exalts God – WHY David exalts God – and - HOW David exalts God

David Exalts God (Psalm 145:1-21)

When?

WHEN does David exalt God?

[Slide 4-vv1-2]



Look at V1 – David praises God’s name forever and ever

And V2 – Every day David will praise God – and **extol God’s name** – that is *praise God’s name enthusiastically - forever and ever*

And then in V21 – the last verse – **David concludes** that **his mouth will speak in praise of the Lord** – and he urges every creature on Earth to praise the Lord’s holy name forever!

Why?

WHY does David **exalt God** – every day and forever?

[Slide 5-Why?]

There are 3 reasons why David wants to exalt God

[Slide 5a-greatness]

The first reason why David exalts God is –because of - God’s greatness – that’s **verses 3 to 7**

Look at V3 –David says - *The Lord is worthy of praise – because no one can fathom His greatness*

And V4 – ***God has done one mighty work after another*** – and v5 – ***God has done wonderful works*** – and v6 – ***God has done awesome works – and great deeds*** – and v7 - ***God has shown abundant goodness and is always righteous.***

What we have here is a summary of how great God is

If we just stop and think of how God created everything – the sun, the planets, the stars, the moon and this Earth and all creatures and even humankind – isn't that why we can sing “How great thou art” - to God?

If we stop and think that God loved us so much – He sent His Son – to bleed and die to take away our sin – isn't that why we can sing “How great thou art” - to God?

[Slide 5b-graciousness and kindness]

The second reason why David exalts God is – because of - ***God's graciousness and kindness*** – **that's verses 8 to 16**

See V8 – ***God is gracious and compassionate - slow to anger and rich in love***

Even though humankind - sin and rebel against God – ***God showed his grace and compassion*** – by sending His Son – to deal with sin and death – for us.

That's because – God does not treat us as our sin deserves – but instead - ***God is gracious – slow to anger - and rich in love for us!***

And V9 – ***the Lord God is good to all – In His graciousness and kindness - He has compassion on all He has made*** – He provides food and shelter - to those who accept Him and to those who reject Him – As Jesus Himself says – ***God***

causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good – and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous (Matt 5:45)

God's graciousness and kindness is spoken about by His people – see V10

And His people speak of His kingdom (vv11-13) which **He promises will last forever** – and His people know that ***He always keeps His promises and He is faithful and trustworthy in all things*** (v13)

And God is ***gracious and kind to all who fall and who bow down to Him*** (v14) – and ***supplies, all who look to Him, with their daily needs*** (vv15-16)

God is gracious and kind – that's why David exalts God!

[Slide 5c-righteousness and justice]

The third reason why David exalts God is –because of - God's righteousness and justice – **that's verses 17 to 20**

Look at v17 – ***The Lord is righteous in all His ways – and faithful in all He does.***

God can NEVER do the wrong thing – He must always do the right thing.

He cannot look upon sin (Hab 1:13) – but at the same time He **wants to save people** – **from the punishment of their sins.**

In the Lord God – His **justice** lives alongside His **righteousness.**

He balances His desire for grace with His need to be just and deal with evil.

And so those who genuinely fear Him – and love Him - and in their belief call out to Him – **He saves** (v18-20) – but those who reject Him – the wicked – **He destroys.**

God is righteous and just – that's why David exalts God!

How?

[Slide 6-How?]

Next - HOW does David say **God is exalted?**

[Slide 6a-pass it on]

People **pass on to each other** – what God is like...

Look at V4 – ***One generation commends God’s works to the next generation – and they tell of God’s mighty acts***

And V5 – ***They speak of the glorious splendour of God’s majesty – and meditate on His wonderful works***

And V6 – ***They tell of the power of God’s awesome work – and proclaim His great deeds***

[Slide 6b-celebrate]

And people **celebrate God’s goodness by singing about it and praising Him** – and can’t stop talking about How great God is!

Look at V7 – ***They celebrate God’s abundant goodness and joyfully sing of His righteousness***

And V10 – ***All God’s works praise Him and His faithful people extol Him***

And V11 – ***They tell of the glory of God’s kingdom and speak of His might***

[Slide 7-Application]

Application:

As we look at David’s psalm this morning – how does it apply to us today?

Given what God has done for us – can we join King David – and exalt and praise God’s name and God’s greatness – EVERY DAY – and FOREVER – and shouldn’t we do that – to thank Him?

Isn’t that the main reason to come to church – to thank and praise God – to exalt Him – for what He has done for us – in creating us – in sending Jesus – in supplying our daily needs – in being both righteous and just – and offering salvation to all who believe in Him?

Can we be like David and the people of Israel – and pass on what God has done – to the next generation? Shouldn’t we be doing that?

Can we celebrate God’s goodness – sing about it – praise His name – and never stop talking about how great God is?

(pause)

The Church Exalts (Acts 2:42-47)

In the Old Testament – God’s people were the Israelites and those who cared to join them in worshipping the one true God.

In the New Testament – Jesus established the Ekklesia – the Church – to be God’s people – and to be the vehicle to: exalt, edify, encourage, equip and evangelize people to become believers and followers of Jesus!

From our NT reading from Acts 2:42-47 – we’re just going to focus on the parts that exalt God – this morning

[Slide 8]

See V42 – they devoted themselves - **to the breaking of bread** and **to prayer**
– and v47 – they devoted themselves – to **praising God**.

These verses tell us how we the Ekklesia – the Church – exalt God

The early church – met together – and **broke bread** – they shared the Lord's Supper together – remembering Jesus' last meal with His disciples – and remembering the bread represented Jesus' body broken on the cross – and remembering the wine/juice represented Jesus' blood poured out on the cross.

They never forgot Jesus' great sacrifice for the forgiveness of their sins!

And we as the church exalt God – when we share in the Lord's Supper here at St. David's – we lift up God's Son high and exalt Him – as we remember how Jesus was lifted up on the cross for us!

The early **church** also devoted themselves to prayer.

Prayer is **God's means for us to communicate with Him**.

We can only have a meaningful and loving relationship with someone - if we actually talk to them.

So, in our worship each Sunday – we have **4 types of prayers**

Adoration – where we praise God for how great He is [exalt]

Confession – where we say sorry to God for what we have done wrong.

Thanksgiving – where we thank God for all He has done for us

And **Supplication** – where we ask God for His help and pray for others

Prayer is part of exalting God – and recalling how He uses our prayers to fulfil His will and purposes.

The Early **church** also devoted themselves to praising God. David's Psalm – **Psalm 145** – like many of the psalms – is a **great example of praising God for who He is**.

Praising God can also be in the form of singing – all our hymns this morning are full of praise for God – for what He has done for us!

And it's because of what God has done for us – for His **daily provision** and **daily blessings** – for His **answered prayers** – and especially His grace and mercy to us in sending Jesus – that we should WANT to come to church and worship Him and exalt Him – not HAVE to come to church but WANT to!

But I want to suggest this morning

That from David's Psalm and from our NT reading from Acts 2:42-47

That - **exalting God** – is not just something we do once a week here on a Sunday

It should be something we do EVERY DAY and FOREVER as David said.

You see David refers to God as - MY God, the King

He is a **personal God** – and so **there needs to be personal worship and personal exalting of God** – as well as corporate.

So perhaps a challenge or New Year's resolution - to leave ourselves with this morning is – how are we personally exalting God – **do we thank Him daily** – **do we talk to Him daily** [[refer to the new Prayer News sheet emailed/printed and prayer points printed next to the sermon outline](#)]- **do we sing His praises daily** – **do we talk about how great He is daily?**

(pause)

Let's pray...

Father God, we lift your name up high and thank and praise you this morning for all that you have done and continue to do for us.

We praise you for your greatness; that you are gracious and kind; and that you are righteous and just.

Thank you for sending Jesus to lay down His life for the forgiveness of sins.

Help us through the power of your Spirit and your Word to pass on how mighty you are to the next generation; and to praise you daily and forever.

In Jesus name, we pray. Amen!