

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL DECEMBER 7, 2014

The Rev. Erin Davenport, LSW '05, Director of the Miller Summer Youth Institute at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

SCRIPTURE

PSALM 24

1The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; 2for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.

3Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place? 4Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully. 5They will receive blessing from the LORD, and vindication from the God of their salvation. 6Such is the company of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. Selah

7Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in. 8Who is the King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle. 9Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in. 10Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory. Selah

DEVOTIONAL

Many years ago I read this psalm with a Bible study group in a local nursing home. The more we read those words—"Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors! That the King of glory may come in. Who is the King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle"— the more we were confident that the King of glory was there, full of strength and might. No matter what battles we were fighting that day, literally or figuratively, they seemed small compared with the greatness of our Lord and Savior who is alive and with us. As we left Bible study that day we called it our revival on wheels (or wheelchairs). I invite you to read Psalm 24: 7-10 over and over again today. Say it aloud. Scream it in your car, so that the King of glory may come in. Invite the King to awaken your soul today. For the Lord is mighty.

PRAYER

Lord of might, give us a glimpse of your glory today. Lift up the gates of our hearts, those ancient doors which we close so tightly. Give us ears to hear and eyes that recognize all that you are doing in the world around us this and every day. Amen.

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