



Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his Christ.

(PSALM 2:1-2)

STRUCTURE

- v. 1-3** Rhetorical question and explanation of the absurdity of the unbelievers' desire to fight against God.
- v. 4-6** The Lord scoffs at their plans and establishes His king on Zion.
- v. 7-9** The Lord speaks to His begotten Son, to whom he gives all of creation.
- v. 10-12** A plea to earthly leaders to repent and turn to the Lord, rather than oppose Him & be destroyed.

AT A GLANCE

- "POTTER'S VESSEL"** Implies either the stencil the potter uses or the clay pots he makes, either of which stand no chance against iron.
- "ZION, MY HOLY HILL"** Often used as a synonym for Jerusalem.
- "ROD OF IRON"** Description of a shepherd's tool, the scepter of a tribal patriarch or a general implement for smiting.



CHRIST IS HERE

In verses 2, 7 and 12 we clearly see Christ, who is the "anointed one," the only begotten Son of God against whom nations rage in vain (SEE ACTS 4:24-30).



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The Lord, the psalmist and the faithful one praying the words of this psalm all find the opposition of unbelievers laughable. The psalmist muses in curiosity about this absurdity, the Lord scoffs in His wrathful derision and we take refuge in the Son. God does most of the speaking in this psalm. He sets up His Anointed, He coronates His King and He speaks to His only begotten Son. The psalm shows us that these Three are One and the same. This Christ is the only begotten and anointed King, the Son of God. To Him are given the nations as a heritage and all the ends of the earth. To Him is given an everlasting kingdom that will not end. Any who rebel against this God and His begotten Son will never succeed. Their best laid plans will go awry — but blessed are those who take refuge in Him.



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USE IN THE CHURCH

Antiphon: v. 11

In the Daily Office: Sundays at Matins; Matins on Christmas Day and Good Friday; Matins for Martyrs and Confessors

At the Divine Service: Introit antiphon for Christmas Eve (v. 6–7); introit verses for Christmas Midnight

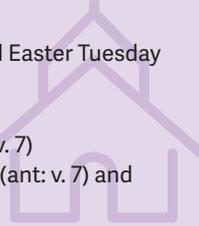
Psalm for Christmas Day and Easter Tuesday (ant: v. 7)

One-Year:

Verse for Christmas Eve (v. 7)
Psalm for Transfiguration (ant: v. 7) and Trinity 17 (ant: v. 11)

Three-Year:

Introit verses for Baptism of our Lord and Proper 16A
Psalm for Transfiguration (ant: v. 6)



SPIRITUAL CARE

- Against the world and unbelievers.
- For rulers to be godly.
- That God's kingdom would come among us.
- In praise of Jesus, our King.
- When evil attacks.



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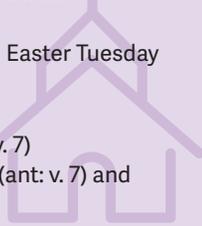
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PSALM PRAYER

O Christ, Word of the Father, the kings of the earth set themselves and the rulers took counsel together against You. Give Your Church the victory she desires over all her enemies, that the sword of her persecutors may be sheathed, and the faith of those who believe in You may be strengthened; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

PSALM

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