



PSALM

35

indicate me, O Lord, my God,
according to your righteousness,
and let them not rejoice over me!

(PSALM 35:24)

STRUCTURE

- v. 1-3** Petition for God to fight David's enemies.
- v. 4-8** David's desire for his enemies' humiliation.
- v. 10-16** David recounts the unrequited justice shown to his enemies.
- v. 17-21** David's desire for his enemies to be brought to justice.
- v. 22-25** David prays for judgment on account of God's righteousness.
- v. 26-28** Promise from David that he will praise God.

AT A GLANCE

OF A KIND An imprecatory psalm: David is praying that God would destroy his enemies.

IN A WORD Psalm 35 contains many expressions used by Job in his afflictions: v. 5, "chaff in the wind" in Job 21:18; v. 7, "falling into a net" in Job 18:8; v. 16, "gnashing of teeth" in Job 16:9.



CHRIST IS HERE

Jesus quoted verse 19 when He spoke about being hated by the world (JOHN 15:18-25). David prayed for "vindication" — that is, a favorable judgment for His cause by the truly righteous King of Kings.



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Psalm 35 contains some of the most robust imagery in the Psalms of what it means to be pursued unjustly, as Christ was in His Passion. There are strong words prayed against the enemies of David, who by verses 9 and 10 has become like a poor man oppressed by the strong and a needy person who has been robbed. After recounting how he was mocked for his piety, David prays that the Lord would arise to vindicate him and judge him according to God's righteousness. When this vindication occurs, those who mocked the Lord's anointed will be clothed with shame and dishonor. This is the hope all Christians have on account of the righteousness of Christ and His vindicating resurrection. The end of the psalm reverses the opening words of imprecation against the enemies, calling on all the faithful to join in the song of the Lord's righteousness.



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USE IN THE CHURCH

Antiphon: v. 1b

In the Daily Office: Mondays at Matins

At the Divine Service:
Gradual for Holy Tuesday

One-Year:
Introit (ant: v. 1–2) and Gradual (v. 23, 3a)
for Holy Monday



SPIRITUAL CARE

- Amid persecution.
- For a steadfast confession in word and deed/faithfulness to the Word of God.
- During temptation.
- For vindication by the Lord when Christ returns.
- For solace amid a failing world.



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PSALM PRAYER

O God, You are the eternal protection and salvation of our souls. Arm us with the helmet of hope and the shield of Your defense. Help us in all our needs that we may shout for joy and be glad with those who love You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

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