



PSALM

10

You hear the desire of the afflicted;
you will strengthen their heart;
you will incline your ear
(PSALM 10:17)

STRUCTURE

- v. 1-6** The pride of the wicked.
- v. 7-11** The plots of the wicked.
- v. 12-15** The plea of the righteous.
- v. 16-18** The Lord's answer.



AT A GLANCE

- OF A KIND** A psalm of individual lament.
- THIS SOUNDS FAMILIAR** v. 7 is included by St. Paul in his description of our sinful flesh in Romans 3:9–20.
- NOTE** This psalm is combined with Psalm 9 in the Greek and Latin Psalter.

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CHRIST IS HERE

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David begins with the question that defines this entire psalm: Why is the Lord not helping him? He laments what appears to be God's lack of concern for him and his situation. The opening verses focus on the wicked man's pride. He does not fear God, and he hates his neighbors, constantly seeking their destruction. His boast, his desire, his worship is bound up with sin, wickedness and cruelty. In his pride, the wicked man does not think he can be stopped, even by God. So he plots the destruction of his neighbor. Verse 12 is a plea for the Lord to arise and stop the wicked man. David commits himself and his cause into the hands of the Lord, who does indeed see and will act on behalf of His people. The psalm ends with a confession that the Lord is king and that as king, He will establish justice for the fatherless and oppressed and will rout the wicked. As in most psalms of lament, a confession of doubt at the beginning answered by a confession of faith and hope at the end shows how we are to wrestle with God in prayer.

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USE IN THE CHURCH

Antiphon: v. 12

In the Daily Office: Sundays at Matins

At the Divine Service:

Three-Year:

Introit for Epiphany 4C (ant: v. 12)



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SPIRITUAL CARE

- When we are maligned by others.
- During times of persecution.
- Against cultural sins.
- For deliverance from evil.
- To encourage faithful leaders.



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PSALM PRAYER

Have mercy on us, O Lord, and defend us against all enemies who seek to harm us in body and soul. As You freed Yourself from the grave, raise us up from the gates of death by Your power; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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