

ow majestic is your name in all the earth, O Lord, our Lord!

(PSALM 8:1)

STRUCTURE

- v. 1-2** O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!
- v. 3-5** God looks in favor upon man, crowning him with glory and honor.
- v. 6-8** Man is given dominion over God's creation.
- v. 9** O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!

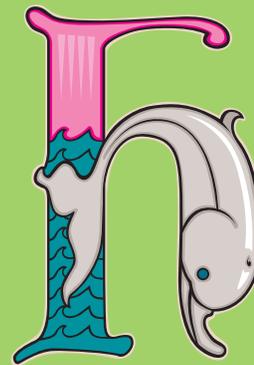


AT A GLANCE

PART OF A WHOLE Psalm 7 concluded with a vow to give praise to the Lord, a feature often found in lament psalms; Psalm 8 is the content of that praise.

"WHAT IS MAN" At the other end of the psalter (PSALM 144:3), David asks this question again, emphasizing the unmerited grace and favor of the Lord.

"SON OF MAN" Jesus takes this title upon Himself throughout the Gospels, rooted in the visions of Daniel 7:13-14 (see also PSALM 80:17).



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When God created man, the crown and culmination of all that He made, this creature was given a fivefold command: “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth” (GEN. 1:28). David reflects on these words in Psalm 8, marveling that God would be so gracious as to honor man with such a task. He looks at all the great things that God has set in place, such as the moon and the stars, those mighty guardians of the night sky. “What is man?” he asks in wonder. Man is lower than the angels, who serve God before his heavenly throne, yet he has been given charge over this earth. He has dominion, which means he is a steward, caring for God’s creation as God’s own representative. It also means that all of creation was made for the provision and delight of man. To this the only response can be praise — the praise that brackets this psalm — praise of His Name. Such praises, uttered even by nursing infants, have the power to put God’s enemies to shame.



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USE IN THE CHURCH

Antiphon: v. 1b

In the Daily Office: Sundays at Matins; Matins on the Ascension; for Martyrs and Confessors (individual or multiple), Virgins and a Holy Woman

At the Divine Service:

Psalm for Circumcision of Jesus (ant: v. 9)

One-Year:

Introit for Christmas 2 (ant: v. 2); introit verses for Easter Day and Holy Trinity

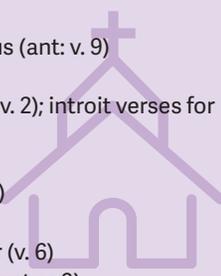
Gradual for Trinity 9 (v. 1)

Psalm for Trinity 21 (ant: v. 9)

Three-Year:

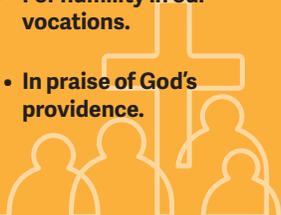
Seasonal Gradual for Easter (v. 6)

Psalm for Holy Trinity A&C (ant: v. 9)



SPIRITUAL CARE

- In praise of Jesus.
- When teaching the Incarnation.
- When teaching creation.
- For humility in our vocations.
- In praise of God’s providence.



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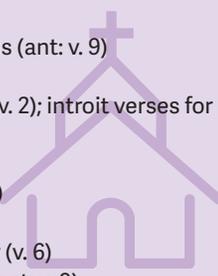
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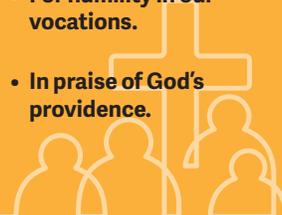
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PSALM PRAYER

O almighty God, we call on Your name and pray that as You have given all the sheep and oxen, the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea for the service of humanity, that You also move us to joyfully serve You in will and in deed; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

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PSALM

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