

Keep me as the apple of your eye;  
hide me in the shadow of your wings.

(PSALM 17:8)

### STRUCTURE

- v. 1-5** Prayer for vindication, arising from a faithful heart.
- v. 6-9** Petition for God to show His love and to vindicate.
- v. 10-14** The ruthlessness of the enemy.
- v. 15** David's confidence in God.

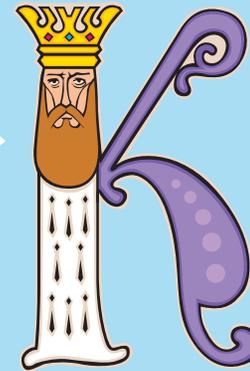


### AT A GLANCE

**MORE TO THE STORY** A prayer of David with no mention of his particular circumstance, likely from the time of his persecution by Saul or during Absalom's rebellion.

**INWARDLY DIGEST** David's early assertions of faithfulness are not claims to be without sinless, that he has not committed the gross sins of his adversaries: slander and violence.

**BLESSING** The last half of verse 14 could speak about God's temporal blessings enjoyed even by the wicked (as in most translations) or God's blessing of those He treasures.



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**This prayer is filled with imagery of the body** to illustrate God's close attention to David and His work of deliverance for him. God's *ear* hears David's prayer (v. 1, 6). God's *face* ("presence" in ESV) favors David and will vindicate him, and David will ultimately see it (v. 2, 15). God's *eyes* see and preserve David (v. 2, 8). From God's *lips* comes the Word by which David has been instructed to avoid the ways of the violent (v. 4). David implores God to act by using His *hand* to deliver David (v. 14). David, who used stone and sling to overcome Goliath, entrusts himself in this psalm into God's charge to deliver him by His sword (v. 13-14). Thus, David refused to harm Saul, though he had numerous opportunities to do so (1 SAM. 24:4-15; 26:7-11).



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## USE IN THE CHURCH

**Antiphon:** v. 6b

**In the Daily Office:** Sundays at Matins

**At the Divine Service:**

**One-Year:**  
Gradual for Trinity 10 (v. 8, 2)



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## SPIRITUAL CARE

- During persecution.
- When we feel abandoned.
- For the Spirit to defend us.
- For religious freedom.
- When weary.



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## PSALM PRAYER

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