



PSALM

28

he Lord is the strength of his people;
he is the saving refuge of his anointed.

(PSALM 28:8)

STRUCTURE

- v. 1-2** David invokes the “senses” of God to get His attention.
- v. 3-5** David prays that the ungodly would receive their just reward.
- v. 6-9** David praises God for using His “senses” to answer David’s prayer.

AT A GLANCE

- INWARDLY DIGEST** David asks for God’s ears (v. 1-2) and His eyes (v.2) in pleading for mercy.
- WHO’S TALKING** Verse 8 in the Septuagint (LXX PSALM 27) reads “He is the protector of the salvation of His Christ.”
- IN A WORD** As in some other Psalms, David here only uses God’s personal name YHWH (Yahweh) instead of “God” or “Lord.”

CHRIST IS HERE

The closing verses tell us that Yahweh is the strength and the saving refuge of His anointed (Messiah). Christ is the Good Shepherd who saves His people and carries them to eternal life.



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All Scripture is God-breathed, and the Spirit bears witness to Christ. Thus, it becomes a first principle that all Scripture is centered on the person and work of Jesus Christ. This at times becomes a difficult thing to understand, though the Christological nature of Scripture is front and center in Psalm 28. Not only does David specifically refer to God's anointed (his Messiah or Christ), but he also uses shepherd imagery to describe the way God leads His people. Much like an earthly shepherd, He rewards the "bad sheep" according to their wickedness. So too this Shepherd is the ultimate protector of His flock against the wolves of hell and the world. Verse 2 in particular reminds us that we will find this shepherding Messiah in His holy sanctuary — that is to say, exactly where He has promised to be in His Word and His holy sacraments.



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USE IN THE CHURCH

Antiphon: v. 8b

In the Daily Office: Mondays at Matins

At the Divine Service:

One-Year:

Introit for Trinity 6 (ant: v. 8–9)

Gradual for Trinity 11 (v. 7b, 1a)

Three-Year:

Introit for Proper 5B (ant: v. 6), Proper 15A
and Proper 18B (ant: v. 8)



SPIRITUAL CARE

- During times of uncertainty.
- When disaster strikes.
- Against fighting in the congregation.
- When repenting from sin.
- For mercy.



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PSALM PRAYER

O Lord, do not remain silent, but console us. Do not let us be dragged away with the desires of our own hearts, or shut up our souls with sinners, but save Your people whom You created, and bless us whom You redeemed with Your precious blood; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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