



he fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good.

(PSALM 14:7-8A)

STRUCTURE

- v. 1-3** The way of the fool.
- v. 4-6** The terror of the fool.
- v. 7** The salvation and joy of the righteous.

AT A GLANCE

- AUTHOR** This psalm of lament was addressed to the Choirmaster by its author, David.
- FROM THE TOP** Choirmaster could also be translated "the Preeminent One."
- THIS SOUNDS FAMILIAR** St. Paul uses this Psalm (v.1-3) to describe the corruption of sinful human nature (ROM. 3:9-20).



CHRIST IS HERE

Jesus is the salvation that comes out of Zion (v.7). He rescues and redeems His people and punishes the wicked who do not fear, love or trust in Him.



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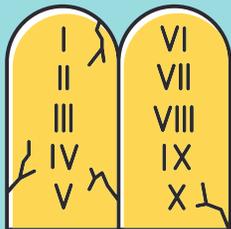


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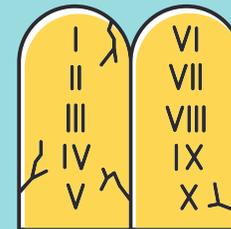
Jesus is the salvation that comes out of Zion (v.7). He rescues and redeems His people and punishes the wicked who do not fear, love or trust in Him.



Psalm 14 laments the folly of fools, which is their rejection of God, and that these foolish ways are widespread among men. Throughout the Bible, a fool is one who refuses to listen to the word of the LORD. The sinful heart of the fool cannot and will not do good. Apart from faith in Christ, who alone is righteous, it is impossible to please God (SEE ROM. 3:21). The foolishness of those who reject God shows itself in their abuse of the poor and needy. While they say “There is no God,” they live in terror of Him. Their conscience cannot escape the reality of the judge of the universe. Perhaps one of the best illustrations of this text is the story of David and Nabal (whose name literally means “fool”) in 1 Samuel 25. The LORD vindicated David by putting Nabal to death, and He will vindicate His people today. The Christian is not to side with the wicked — especially against other Christians! Instead, the Christian is to call the fool to repentance and to entrust their salvation to Christ alone. When we do this, we can truly rejoice and be glad.



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USE IN THE CHURCH

Antiphon: v. 2a

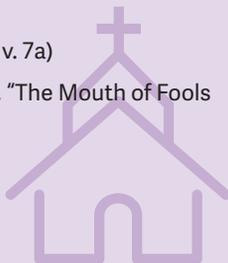
In the Daily Office: Sundays at Matins

At the Divine Service:

One-Year:
Psalm for Trinity 25 (ant: v. 7)

Three-Year:
Psalm for Proper 16A (ant: v. 7a)

Hymn: *Walther's Hymnal* 170, “The Mouth of Fools Doth God Confess” (Luther)



SPIRITUAL CARE

- Against the ungodly.
- When suffering unjustly.
- Against false teachers.
- For mercy on the poor.
- For help with faith.
- For the Jews to hear the Gospel.
- When betrayed by false brothers.
- In praise of God's deliverance.



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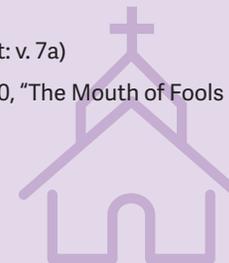
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PSALM PRAYER

O Lord, teach us always to believe and call on Your name, that we may not think like the fools who cry, “There is no God.” Turn the corruption of their mind to the truth of the faithful, that their wickedness may not overcome those faithful, but that the faithful may win them by the doctrine of love, that they may throw off their abominable heresy, and together with the faithful in a pure heart believe and confess the essence of the Trinity, and be numbered with the generation of the righteous, and with Your saints enjoy the glory of blessedness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

PSALM
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