



## PSALM 34

Come, O children, listen to me;  
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.  
(PSALM 34:11)

### STRUCTURE

- v. 1-3** Bless the Lord.
- v. 4-7** Deliverance from fears.
- v. 8-14** Taste and see.
- v. 15-18** The Lord sees and hears.
- v. 19-22** Deliverance for all saints.



### AT A GLANCE

- OF A KIND** An individual thanksgiving psalm (with wisdom elements).
- FROM THE TOP** Superscription: "Written by David, when he changed his behavior before Abimelech, so that he drove him out, and he went away."
- DIG DEEPER** 1 Sam. 21 records David's encounter with "Achish," not "Abimelech." It is possible that "Abimelech" is a title for the Philistine kings. However, it seems that David uses the name of the wicked Philistine from whom God rescued Abraham and Isaac (SEE GEN. 20 AND 26), to identify himself with the same. The Lord rescued David as he rescued them, and as He will go on to rescue Christ.

## CHRIST IS HERE

Jesus is the answer to the question asked in verse 12. He is the wise and righteous one, the deliverer of all those who call on Him. Verse 20 is quoted in John 19:36, showing us that the deliverance of Jesus is foreshadowed in David's rescue from the king.



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**David's prayer of thanksgiving** is a beautiful prayer that invites all believers to trust in God for deliverance and give thanks to Him. David wants all the faithful to "taste and see that the Lord is good" in both Word and Sacrament so that they can learn the fear of the Lord. The psalm appears to summarize Psalms 1 and 2, recounting how those psalms play out in the life of the king and the lives of all those who have faith in the Lord. Peter quotes and alludes to a number of these verses in 1 Peter, which can almost be viewed as an epistle explanation of this psalm. The fear of the Lord drives out fear of all other things, so that the Christian can live by faith alone in grace alone. The description of the righteous in this psalm is not only a picture of Jesus but also a picture of how Christians are to live in Him. As Peter says, we are those who have "tasted and seen that the Lord is good" — and we keep tasting and seeing as we receive Him and his goodness in His Word and Sacrament.

## USE IN THE CHURCH

**Antiphon:** v. 9a

**In the Daily Office:** Mondays at Matins; Matins of Apostles

**At the Divine Service:** Introit for St. Mary (ant: v. 1) and Christian Education (ant: v. 11); introit verses for Reformation

LSB Gradual for Martyrdom of Stephen and John the Baptist (v. 9, 19) and Harvest Observance (v. 8)  
Historic Gradual for All Saints (v. 9–10b)

**One-Year:**

Gradual for Trinity 7 (v. 11, 5) and Trinity 12 (v. 1–2)  
Psalm for Trinity 2 (ant: v. 11) and Trinity 18 (ant: v. 19)

**Three-Year:**

Introit for Propers 14A, 9B, 14B, 24B and 23C  
Third seasonal Gradual in Pentecost on Propers 14–20 (v. 9, 19)  
Psalm for Propers 14B (ant: v. 3) and 15B (ant: v. 11)

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## PSALM PRAYER

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O Lord, redeem the souls of Your servants, who put their trust in You. In your love, let us find Your blessing in trouble as well as in prosperity. Because You are near those who have contrite hearts, open Your ears to our repentant prayers, and let Your peace, which surpasses all understanding, keep our hearts and minds; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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