



or the Lord is righteous;
he loves righteous deeds;
the upright shall behold his face.

(PSALM 11:7)

STRUCTURE

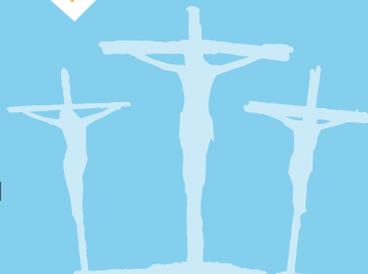
- v. 1a** David's rebuke of the fearful.
- v. 1b-3** Words of the fainthearted at seeing the strength of the wicked.
- v. 4-7** David reminds them: God rules over all and tests His people.

AT A GLANCE

- IN A WORD** The vivid images of verses 1-3 portray the fearfulness of David's companions.
- THIS SOUNDS FAMILIAR** The description of judgment upon the wicked in verse 6 matches what befell Sodom and Gomorrah (GEN. 19:24).
- BLESSING** Verse 4 is a powerful reminder that, though God is far above all things, He is not far removed. His eyes see the children of man.

CHRIST IS HERE

The apparent loss of God's love and protection is seen as Christ hangs dead on the cross. But He, the truly righteous Man, is vindicated by the Father.



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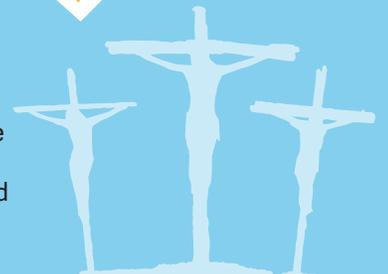
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David's companions face the same experience that many of God's people still face today: The forces of wickedness are arrayed against them. Hope seems lost. Not only are they under attack, but even the very foundations upon which they stand are destroyed. The temptation to despair often arose among Israel in the wilderness and throughout Israel's later history. David responds with a bold confession of faith: Nevertheless, God loves and upholds His people. The difficulties they suffer at the hands of the wicked do not mean that they are forsaken by God or that He will destroy them. Rather, their trials will test them and drive them to the very confidence David expresses. God's saints are upheld by the promise that God sees all. Nothing escapes His gaze. Therefore, judgment will come upon the wicked, if not in this life, then in the undying fire of eternal condemnation. David's answer to his men's fear (v. 4) is a reality not only in creation, but also in the holy church as the Lord dwells in the midst of His people to uphold and deliver them through the ministry of His Son.

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USE IN THE CHURCH

Antiphon: v. 4a

In the Daily Office: Sundays at Matins; Matins on Ascension and for a Martyr

At the Divine Service:
Psalm for St. John, Evangelist (ant: v. 4a)



SPIRITUAL CARE

- For strength of faith.
- Against false preachers.
- During times of temptation or doubt.
- For mutual encouragement of Christians.
- To extol the beauty of the church.



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PSALM

11

PSALM PRAYER

O Lord, in Your kindness, look on our weakness and protect us with the armor of faith. Defend us from the arrows of the ungodly, that we may live in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

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