



PSALM

12

ave, O Lord, for the godly one is gone;
for the faithful have vanished from
among the children of man.

(PSALM 12:1)

STRUCTURE

- v. 1 The faithful have vanished.
- v. 2-4 Flattering lips.
- v. 5 Promised vindication.
- v. 6 Pure words.
- v. 8 Promise fulfilled.

AT A GLANCE

- AUTHOR** This psalm of lament was written by David, to the Choirmaster.
- “SHEMINITH”** A musical/liturgical term. The precise meaning is unknown.
- “TRIED BY FIRE”** The description of smelting is used by Isaiah and Peter also to describe the faith that is tied to God’s enduring Word.



CHRIST IS HERE

This psalm points us to the Lord at His Passion: mocked and slandered by false leaders of His own people, yet vindicated by His Father at His resurrection, in accordance with the Scriptures.



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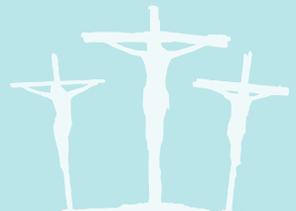
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This psalm points us to the Lord at His Passion: mocked and slandered by false leaders of His own people, yet vindicated by His Father at His resurrection, in accordance with the Scriptures.



The contrast at the heart of this psalm is the contrast between the false, evil words of the faithless and the pure, faithful words of the Lord. While the faithless and wicked man may boast with his words and prowl about seeking to do evil, the Lord arises to cut off all flattering lips and to bring an end to the wicked. The Lord is not deaf to the cries of His people when they are being slandered and abused. He hears, He promises to act and He fulfills that promise. The cry for the Lord to save in v. 1 is answered by the end of the psalm. The Lord is not blind or deaf to the assaults carried out against His people. While the psalm is a lament about the cruelty of the wicked against the faithful, the entire prayer is upheld by hope in the pure words of the Lord that do not fail but accomplish what He sends them out to do. The Lord is able to use adversity and suffering to draw us closer to Himself through faith in the promises of His Word, which are always “Yes” and “Amen” in Christ.



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USE IN THE CHURCH

Antiphon: v. 7b

In the Daily Office: Sundays at Matins

At the Divine Service:

Hymn: TLH 260, “O Lord, Look Down from Heav’n, Behold” (Luther)



SPIRITUAL CARE

- Against false worship.
- Before studying Scripture.
- When we feel alone and unloved.
- Against liars and narcissistic teachers.
- When Christians fight with each other.



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PSALM PRAYER

Deliver us, Lord, from lying lips and deceitful tongues. You Yourself were weighed on the balance of the cross. Do not let the accuser have any cause to blame us, nor let Your people give in to the deceit of his words. Overthrow those who lie in ambush against us with Your almighty spear, and rise up to relieve the troubles of those without comfort, and the deep sighing of the poor; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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