

PSALM

36

or with you, O Lord, is the fountain of life;
in your light do we see light.

(PSALM 36:9)

STRUCTURE

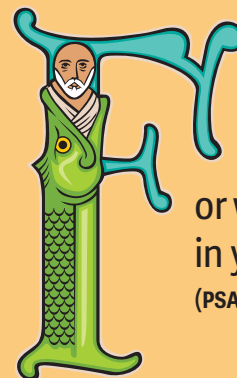
- v. 1-4** The transgression of the wicked.
- v. 5-6** The faithfulness of the LORD.
- v. 7-9** The wise are satisfied in the LORD.
- v. 10-12** Prayer for steadfastness.

AT A GLANCE

- FROM THE TOP** "To the choirmaster/chief musician" could be translated as "To the preeminent one."
- "SERVANT OF THE LORD"** Only used one other time in a superscription (PSALM 18). This term also connects this psalm to Psalm 35:27.
- OF A KIND** This psalm is sometimes classified as a lament but might be better described as a wisdom psalm.

**CHRIST
IS HERE**

Jesus is the full revelation of lovingkindness of God. He shelters us with His wings. He is the living water and light of the world.



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Jesus is the full revelation of lovingkindness of God. He shelters us with His wings. He is the living water and light of the world.



In Psalm 36, David contemplates the transgression of the wicked: their lack of the fear of God, their pride, their foolishness and how evil constantly consumes them. The wicked worship themselves. They do not fear, love and trust in God above all things. This is contrasted not with what a righteous man looks like, but with the faithfulness and mercy of the LORD. David paints a picture of the LORD's goodness, love and mercy, so that we would find our protection, satisfaction, pleasure, life and light in the LORD alone. You can hear and even feel David's joy and contentment in the LORD permeating the middle section of the psalm. The wicked man pursues evil and rejects the LORD at every turn. The wise man seeks the LORD and finds all that he could possibly need in Him. The psalm's closing verses are a prayer to not be moved from clinging to Jesus — whether through our own pride or the assaults of our enemies. The wise man desires to be kept in the lovingkindness of the LORD all the days of his life.



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USE IN THE CHURCH

Antiphon: v. 5a

In the Daily Office: Mondays at Matins

At the Divine Service:

Psalm for Holy Monday (ant: v. 9), St. Philip and St. James (v. 8)

One-Year:
Verse for Trinity 24 (v. 9)

Three-Year:
Introit verses for Epiphany 2C
Verse for Lent 4A (v. 9)



SPIRITUAL CARE

- In praise of God's Word.
- Against the proud and lovers of self.
- For humility.
- When struggling with doubt.
- For guidance in truth and prayer.
- Lament in the face of injustice or evil.



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PSALM PRAYER

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O eternal God, You are the fountain and source of light. Enlighten us with Your steadfast love. Satisfy us with Your abundance, that we may always shun deceit and wickedness and the greed of pride; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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