

PSALM

17

Keep me as the apple of your eye;
hide me in the shadow of your wings.

(PSALM 17:8)

STRUCTURE

- v. 1-5** Prayer for vindication, arising from a faithful heart.
- v. 6-9** Petition for God to show His love and to vindicate.
- v. 10-14** The ruthlessness of the enemy.
- v. 15** David's confidence in God.

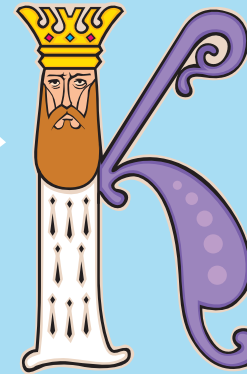


AT A GLANCE

MORE TO THE STORY A prayer of David with no mention of his particular circumstance, likely from the time of his persecution by Saul or during Absalom's rebellion.

INWARDLY DIGEST David's early assertions of faithfulness are not claims to be without sinless, that he has not committed the gross sins of his adversaries: slander and violence.

BLESSING The last half of verse 14 could speak about God's temporal blessings enjoyed even by the wicked (as in most translations) or God's blessing of those He treasures.



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CHRIST IS HERE

Jesus truly was innocent in every respect. Though He was given over to violent men, He was vindicated, awakened from death on the morning of the third day.



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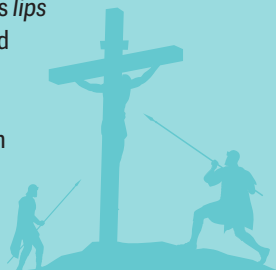
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This prayer is filled with imagery of the body to illustrate God's close attention to David and His work of deliverance for him. God's *ear* hears David's prayer (v. 1, 6). God's *face* ("presence" in ESV) favors David and will vindicate him, and David will ultimately see it (v. 2, 15). God's *eyes* see and preserve David (v. 2, 8). From God's *lips* comes the Word by which David has been instructed to avoid the ways of the violent (v. 4). David implores God to act by using His *hand* to deliver David (v. 14). David, who used stone and sling to overcome Goliath, entrusts himself in this psalm into God's charge to deliver him by His sword (v. 13-14). Thus, David refused to harm Saul, though he had numerous opportunities to do so (1 SAM. 24:4-15; 26:7-11).



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USE IN THE CHURCH

Antiphon: v. 6b

In the Daily Office: Sundays at Matins

At the Divine Service:

One-Year:
Gradual for Trinity 10 (v. 8, 2)



SPIRITUAL CARE

- During persecution.
- When we feel abandoned.
- For the Spirit to defend us.
- For religious freedom.
- When weary.



PSALM PRAYER

PSALM
17

Turn, O Lord, the eyes of our hearts to discern the truth of Your judgements, that though tested by spiritual fire while here, we may be satisfied by Your presence in eternity with the fruit of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

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