

## PSALM 20

Now I know that the Lord saves his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven with the saving might of his right hand.

(PSALM 20:6)

### STRUCTURE

- v. 1-5** We speak to the king: may the Lord hear your prayer and deliver you!
- v. 6-8** We will have confidence, for the Lord will save His anointed.
- v. 9** We speak to the Lord: save the king, that he may save us!

### AT A GLANCE

#### WHO'S TALKING

Psalm 20 asks God to intervene when His anointed, the king, cries to Him: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (PSALM 22:1).

#### "HIS ANNOINTED"

In Hebrew, this is "Messiah" ("Christ" in Greek). This title refers us to Psalm 2, where the anointed one is enthroned despite opposition.

#### "SOME TRUST IN CHARIOTS..."

(v. 7) Throughout Israel's history, God's people were tempted to trust in the weapons of men rather than their God.



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**God's anointed one**, the king, is a suffering monarch — he is opposed at every turn. In Psalm 20, God's people speak to their king, praying that God would hearken to the king's need and intervene on his behalf in his affliction. Like a cadence, the requests pour in: may the Lord answer you, may the Lord send you help from Zion, may the name of the God of Jacob save you, may we shout for joy when you are delivered. We are speaking to the king, encouraging him in his affliction, but our prayers are directed to God, the God who can and will save. This is a psalm of confidence: "I know" that the Lord will save His anointed one; "He will answer" the pleas of the one He has set on the throne (v. 6). No trust is to be put in men; it is God Himself who will save. The very last words of this psalm reveal why God's people want the king to be vindicated and saved: "May he answer us when we call" (v. 9b). The suffering, embattled king is both the greatest lamenter and the answer to our laments. When He is saved, then He is able to save us.



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## USE IN THE CHURCH

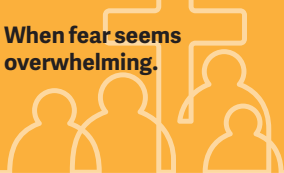
**Antiphon:** v. 1a

**In the Daily Office:** Sundays at Matins



## SPIRITUAL CARE

- For earthly servants who wield the sword (see Rom. 13:4).
- When helping friends and family.
- For faithful pastors.
- For encouragement.
- When fear seems overwhelming.



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## PSALM PRAYER

O Lord, fulfill our prayers and receive us as living sacrifices to You.  
Overthrow the might of our enemies and save us by the power of Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

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