

PSALM 24

He who has clean hands and a pure heart ...
will receive blessing from the Lord and
righteousness from the God of his salvation.
(PSALM 24:4A, 5)

STRUCTURE

- v. 1-2** The earth is the LORD's.
- v. 3-6** The ascension of the LORD.
- v. 7-10** The King of Glory.

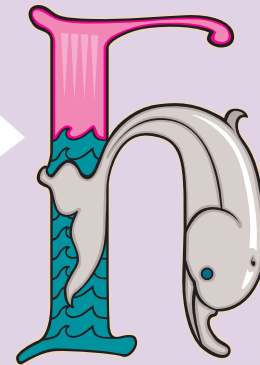


AT A GLANCE

- AUTHOR** A Psalm of David.
- MORE TO THE STORY** May have been written when David returned the Ark of the Covenant to the tabernacle (SEE 2 SAM. 6:12-15).
- THIS SOUNDS FAMILIAR** Psalm 15 also begins with the question posed in v. 3.

CHRIST IS HERE

This psalm is fulfilled in Jesus' birth, His being brought to the temple as a baby, His triumphal entry, His crucifixion and then His resurrection and ascension.



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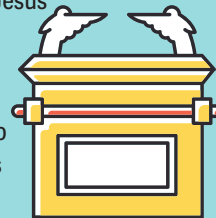
This psalm is fulfilled in Jesus' birth, His being brought to the temple as a baby, His triumphal entry, His crucifixion and then His resurrection and ascension.



The context for this psalm appears to be when David returned the Ark of the Covenant to the tabernacle. It opens with the confession that the earth and everything in it belongs to the LORD, who is the true creator of heaven and earth. This confession leads to some questions: Who then can ascend into the creator's presence? David does see himself as one who can do this, because he has received his righteousness from the LORD. But the psalm also indicates that one of his descendants would be righteous in and of himself and that he would bring a generation into God's presence. The psalmist then calls for the gates to lift up their heads in joy at the coming of the tabernacle and the king. Jesus Himself is the King of Glory, who alone can perfectly ascend the holy hill into the Father's presence. The psalm shows that this king is the LORD Himself. Because Jesus came in the flesh, lived, suffered, died and rose again, He can enter the heavenly temple as the King of Glory, the one who can cleanse the hands and hearts of all His people. This psalm calls on us to seek Him alone.



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USE IN THE CHURCH

Antiphon: v. 4a, 3a ("He who has clean hands and a pure heart shall ascend the hill of the Lord.")

In the Daily Office: Sundays at Midday (Prime); Matins on Holy Saturday; Matins for Martyrs, Confessors (individual and multiple), Virgins and a Holy Woman

At the Divine Service: Historic Introit verse (v. 1) and Gradual (v. 7, 3–4a) for the Annunciation

One-Year:

Introit verses for Christmas Eve
Psalm for Advent 1 and Epiphany (ant: v. 7)

Three-Year:

Introit verses for Christmas Eve (1, 3–5) and Palm Sunday (7–10)
Verse for Advent 1A&B (v. 7)
Psalm for Advent 4A (ant: v. 7)

Hymns: LSB 339, "Lift Up Your Heads, You Everlasting Doors"
LSB 340/341, "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

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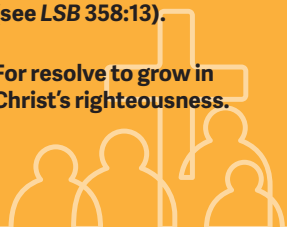
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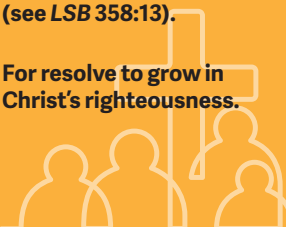
SPIRITUAL CARE

- In thanksgiving for God's Word.
- For successful missions.
- For unbelieving family and friends.
- For God's kingdom to come.
- Before worship (see LSB 358:13).
- For resolve to grow in Christ's righteousness.



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PSALM PRAYER

Lord, strong and mighty, Lord, mighty in battle, cleanse our hearts from all sin and keep our hands without guilt. Purify our souls from vanity that we may stand in Your holy place, and receive the blessing from the Lord our God; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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