

My eyes are ever toward
the Lord, for he will pluck
my feet out of the net.

(PSALM 25:15))

STRUCTURE

- v. 1-3** The righteous are lifted up; the wicked are put to shame.
- v. 4-7** The righteous pray for God's mercy and instruction.
- v. 8-12** The Lord teaches His way.
- v. 13-22** Those who walk in the Lord's way pray for His deliverance and mercy.

AT A GLANCE

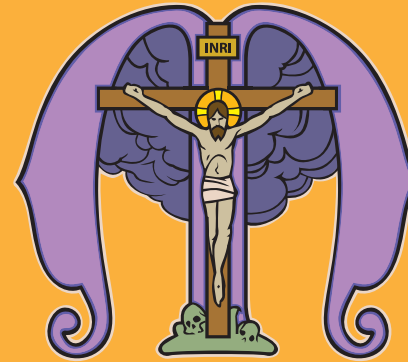
OF A KIND This psalm is an acrostic poem. As such, the reader would have known the letter (sound) beginning each line, and thus could more easily commit the psalm to memory. While that structure is lost in translation, the value of committing this psalm to heart is not.

INWARDLY DIGEST The repetition of "path" ties to Christ's confession that He is "the way."

AUTHOR This psalm reflects David's maturity as he asks that the Lord not remember the sins of his youth.

CHRIST IS HERE

None who hope in the Lord will be put to shame — indeed, those who hope in Jesus' promise to return in judgment will "inherit the land."



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Beginning with a word of praise, David demonstrates for all believers that even when we are approaching God in prayer for mercy and defense, we should first “lift up our heart” unto the Lord. Such “lifting up” is paralleled in verse 15, in which David lifts not only his soul, but also his eyes to heaven; both the physical and the spiritual life are focused completely on the Lord. The Christian then asks God for instruction so that he might walk “in the way.” As Martin Luther once said, “The whole of the Christian life is one of repentance,” and so even though we have received forgiveness of sins, the stain of original sin often attaches them to our memories. David, through a veil, knew this, and so prayed that the Lord would not remember the sins of his youth (of which there were many), but instead remember David only according to His steadfast love, which does not only forgive, but also leads in paths of righteousness.



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USE IN THE CHURCH

Antiphon: v. 15a

In the Daily Office: Sundays at Midday (Prime)

At the Divine Service:

Psalm for Good Friday (ant: v. 1)

One-Year:

Introit for Advent 1 (ant: v. 1–2a), Lent 2 (ant: v. 6, 2b, 22), Lent 3 (ant: v. 15–16) and Trinity 3 (ant: v. 16, 18)

Gradual for Advent 1 (v. 3a, 4) and Lent 2 (v. 17–18)

Three-Year:

Introit for Propers 3C (ant: v. 12) and 6C (ant: v. 12); introit antiphon for Lent 2B (v. 6) and Lent 4A (v. 15); introit verses for Advent 1B (v. 1–3)

Psalm for Advent 1C (ant: v. 6), Lent 1B (ant: v. 14), Proper 21A and Pentecost A (ant: v. 4)

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Psalm for Advent 1C (ant: v. 6), Lent 1B (ant: v. 14), Proper 21A and Pentecost A (ant: v. 4)

SPIRITUAL CARE

- **Before Confession and Absolution.**
- **When guilt overwhelms or persists.**
- **For peace** (SEE JOHN 14:27).
- **For patience** (SEE ISAIAH 40:31).
- **Amid persecution.**

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PSALM PRAYER

Most kind and merciful God, we lift up our souls to You. Deliver us from all our afflictions. Remember not the sins of our youth. Pardon our ignorance and, in Your mercy, forgive all our sins; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

PSALM
25

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