

PSALM

3

rise, O Lord! Save me, O my God!

(PSALM 3:7)

STRUCTURE

v. 1-2 My enemies surround me and mock me!

v. 3-6 The Lord is a shield about me, so I will not fear.

v. 7a Arise, O Lord, and save me!

v. 7b-8 The Lord will defeat my enemies.

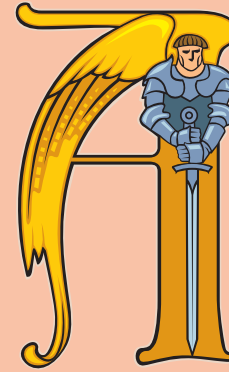


AT A GLANCE

PART OF A WHOLE After the prologue (PSALMS 1-2), the psalter proper begins with Psalm 3, a psalm of lament which begins a long section (PSALMS 3-17) of laments.

"HIS HOLY HILL" (v. 4) That is, Mount Zion. In Psalm 2, the Lord's anointed King is set on Zion, where David now looks for help.

MORE TO THE STORY The rebellion of Absalom, David's son, was a consequence of David's sin with Bathsheba and one of the greatest threats to his rule (2 SAM. 15-18).



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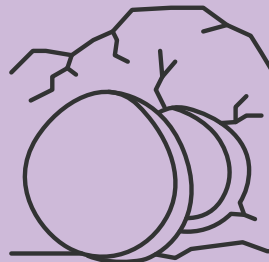
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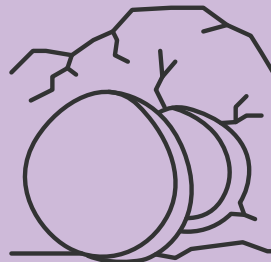
CHRIST IS HERE

Christ is the suffering yet vindicated King, surrounded by mocking enemies yet assured in His ultimate victory, as He lay down to sleep in death and was woken in triumph three days later.



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Psalm 2 establishes the narrative pattern of the psalter: that the Lord's anointed, His King, will be established and exalted despite the opposition of His foes. In Psalm 3, the voice of this suffering yet exalted king is first heard, crying out for deliverance from his enemies, yet trusting in the Lord's vindication. Despite the endless, delightful variety of the psalter, this pattern is, in essence, the narrative of every lament psalm. David is surrounded by enemies who mock him, saying, "There is no salvation for him in God" (v. 2). Yet David does not despair. He speaks with assurance and great confidence: The Lord is a shield about him and will lift up his suffering head. Notice the tense of the verbs in the following verses: "He answered" (v. 4) and "the Lord sustained me" (v. 5). David speaks in the past tense. The salvation of his God is so certain and sure that he speaks as if it has already happened! His cry in verse 7 ("Arise, O Lord! Save me, O my God!") reminds us that he is still under threat, but the psalm ends with the same confidence. David's enemies will be defeated and he will be vindicated.



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SPIRITUAL CARE

- When betrayed by false Christians.
- When persecuted by the world.
- During times of doubt.
- Before reading/hearing the Passion of Christ.
- When falsely accused.



USE IN THE CHURCH

Antiphon: v. 7a

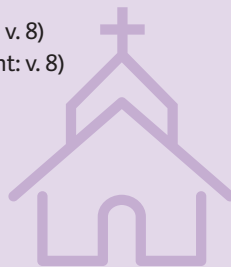
In the Daily Office: Sundays at Matins;
Matins for a Martyr or a Confessor

At the Divine Service:

Three-Year:

Introit for Lent 5C (ant: v. 8)

Psalm for Proper 7C (ant: v. 8)



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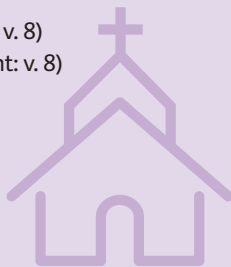
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PSALM PRAYER

O Lord, even though many may say there is no salvation for us in God, yet You are our defender and You lift up our heads. Increase our hope and surround us with Your never-failing mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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