



PSALM

13

have trusted in your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

(PSALM 13:5)

STRUCTURE

- v. 1-2** Prayer of impatience.
- v. 3-4** Prayer for deliverance.
- v. 5-6** The Lord's salvation renews patience and confidence.

AT A GLANCE

- IN A WORD** The "hidden face" perceived in verse 1 is the opposite of the Lord's countenance, a sign of His blessing and favor (SEE NUM. 6:24-26).
- "ENLIGHTENED EYES"** A symbol of divine illumination in Psalm 19:8, Ezra 9:8, Proverbs 29:13 and Ephesians 1:18.
- MORE TO THE STORY** We ought to juxtapose the prayer "light up my eyes" with Job's confession in Job 17:7: "My eyes have grown dim with grief."



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CHRIST IS HERE

Christ slept the sleep of death and His eyes were lightened by His Father that we may be delivered from death with Him. Death, our last enemy, does not prevail over Him (ROM. 6:8-10).

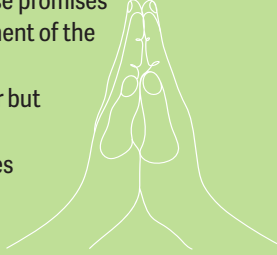


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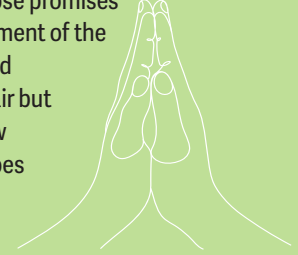
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"How long, O Lord!" is a common refrain of lament in Scripture. The Lord asked Pharaoh, "How long will you refuse to humble yourself before me?" (Ex. 10:3) He asked Moses "how long" Israel would despise Him while wandering in the wilderness. Here, David turns the Lord's words toward Him when He says "How long? Will you forget me forever?" This psalm teaches that we may be bold to tell the Lord what we face and what we feel, even if it seems that He has stopped listening to prayer and hidden His face from us. God has made His promises to us in Christ, and it is faith — not doubt — which dares to hold those promises out before God, as Moses once did (Ex. 32:9–14). With the enlightenment of the Lord and the promise that death will not claim him, David's joy and confidence are restored. The outcome of this lament is not despair but confidence: Trust in the Lord and joy in His salvation will not show themselves misplaced. As a final reassurance, the last verse echoes Moses' great victory psalm at the Exodus (15:1).



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USE IN THE CHURCH

Antiphon: v. 6

In the Daily Office: Sundays at Matins

At the Divine Service:

Psalm for St. John, Evangelist (ant: v. 4a)

One-Year:

Introit for Trinity 1 (ant: v. 5–6)

Three-Year:

Introit for Epiphany 5B (ant: v. 6)



SPIRITUAL CARE

- When struggling with depression.
- Against sadness or despair.
- A faithful cry for salvation.
- In praise of divine grace.
- A prayer for the return of Jesus.



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PSALM PRAYER

O almighty God, hide not Your face from us nor let our enemies be exalted over us, but fill our hearts with the joy of Your salvation and cause us to escape the sleep of eternal death; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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