

Let my prayer be counted as incense before you, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!

(PSALM 141:2)

## STRUCTURE

- v. 1-2** The opening verses beg God to listen to our prayers.
- v. 3-4** A prayer that God would keep us from falling into sins of thought, word or deed.
- v. 5** It is wise to receive rebuke and correction from a believer.
- v. 6-7** The desire that the wicked would be scattered and destroyed.
- v. 8** The final refrain of continued prayer before God even in the midst of hardship
- v. 9-10** The final prayer that God would preserve us from our sins and the sins of others.

## AT A GLANCE

**"EVENING SACRIFICE"** The sacrifice of a lamb at twilight to atone for the sins of the day (EX. 29:41).

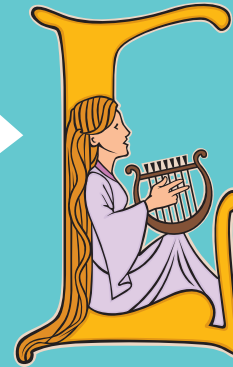
**"SHEOL"** The place of the dead in the Old Testament.

**"SNARES"** A trap for animals that gets tighter the further into it they go, used as an analogy for sin.



## CHRIST IS HERE

Christ is the evening sacrifice in verse 2. Sacrificed on the cross at twilight, He is the perfect final Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.



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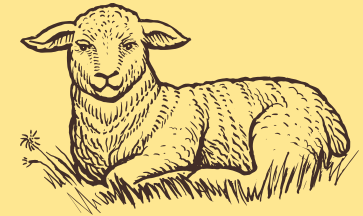
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**The Apostle Paul** says that everything is sanctified by the Word of God and prayer (1 TIM. 4:4-5). "Everything" includes us. We too are sanctified by the Word of God and prayer. Thus, David calls us to join him in evening prayer. Our prayers are pleasing to God, like incense, on account of Christ, in whose name they are sure. As we pray, we ask that God would preserve us from sin, death and the devil. This psalm teaches us to view sins and temptations not only as actions but also as words and thoughts. Against them, the Lord guards, rebukes, corrects and trains us in righteousness, that we may be equipped for every good work (2 TIM. 3:16-17). Finally, we pray that even in the midst of our demonic enemies, God would keep our eyes fixed on Him, the founder and perfecter of our faith (HEB. 12:2).



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## USE IN THE CHURCH

- For humble acceptance of godly rebuke.
- Against evil doctrines.
- For rescue from false teachers.
- Against a prideful tongue (SEE JAMES 1:26).

**Antiphon:** v. 1a

**In the Daily Office:** Fridays at Vespers; Vespers on Holy Thursday

**At the Divine Service:**

**One-Year:**  
Gradual for Trinity 19 (v. 1-2)

**LSB Liturgy:** First psalm in Evening Prayer



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## PSALM PRAYER

O Lord God, we offer our evening praise. Hear the prayers of Your humble people. Let our prayers be sweet incense in Your sight. Let the lifting up of our hands be an evening sacrifice. Let this be profitable to Your servants, O Lord, for their sure protection, that in every hour and every season we may be guarded in our daily works and watched in our nightly sleep by the gift of Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

PSALM

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