



PSALM 81

ing aloud to God our strength;
shout for joy to the God of Jacob!
(PSALM 81:1)

STRUCTURE

- v. 1-5** Call to praise.
- v. 6-12** The Lord's call to repentance.
- v. 13-16** Honey from the rock.



AT A GLANCE

- AUTHOR** This psalm of Asaph is often considered a prophetic psalm. This psalm was most likely sung at the Feast of Tabernacles.
- THIS SOUNDS FAMILIAR** This psalm draws from the Song of Moses in Deuteronomy 32.
- "MERIBAH"** Where Moses struck the rock and water came out (EX. 17).
- "HONEY FROM THE ROCK"** An image that combines the sweet taste of manna with the water from the rock. It symbolizes the future hope and provision that the Lord is promising His people.

CHRIST IS HERE

It is the Lord Jesus Christ and Him alone whom we are to worship and adore. He is our sole redeemer, the author and finisher of our faith. He has brought us through the greater Exodus.



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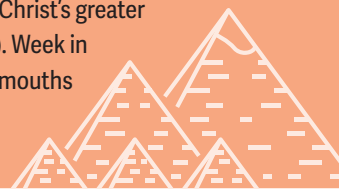
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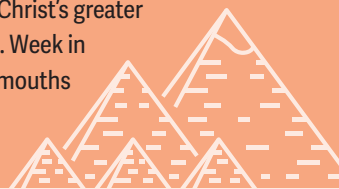
It is the Lord Jesus Christ and Him alone whom we are to worship and adore. He is our sole redeemer, the author and finisher of our faith. He has brought us through the greater Exodus.



In Psalm 81, God calls His people to repentance at the Feast of Tabernacles. After the people are called to worship God with song and instruments, there is a sudden turn when God shows up and speaks to His people. Most of the Lord's speech in this psalm is a call to repentance. He reminds them of all the things He did for them in the past, especially how He rescued and redeemed them from slavery in Egypt. The response of God's people should have been faith, worship, praise and obedience. Instead, the people of Israel turned to idolatry. The Lord pleads with His people to return to Him because He will provide all that they need. The psalm continues to preach the same Law and Gospel now. Like the people of Israel, Christians have been rescued by God, brought through Christ's greater exodus out of slavery to sin, death and the devil (SEE EXODUS 9:31). Week in and week out, He calls us to His table and tells us to open our mouths that He may fill them. His Word and Sacrament are the honey from the Rock which satisfies.



In Psalm 81, God calls His people to repentance at the Feast of Tabernacles. After the people are called to worship God with song and instruments, there is a sudden turn when God shows up and speaks to His people. Most of the Lord's speech in this psalm is a call to repentance. He reminds them of all the things He did for them in the past, especially how He rescued and redeemed them from slavery in Egypt. The response of God's people should have been faith, worship, praise and obedience. Instead, the people of Israel turned to idolatry. The Lord pleads with His people to return to Him because He will provide all that they need. The psalm continues to preach the same Law and Gospel now. Like the people of Israel, Christians have been rescued by God, brought through Christ's greater exodus out of slavery to sin, death and the devil (SEE EXODUS 9:31). Week in and week out, He calls us to His table and tells us to open our mouths that He may fill them. His Word and Sacrament are the honey from the Rock which satisfies.



USE IN THE CHURCH

Antiphon: v. 1a

In the Daily Office: Fridays at Matins

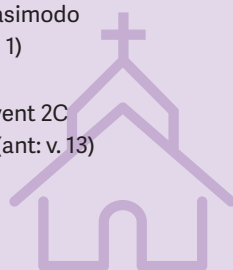
At the Divine Service:

One-Year:

Introit for Pentecost Monday (ant: v. 16);
introit verses for Quasimodo
Verse for Trinity 12 (v. 1)

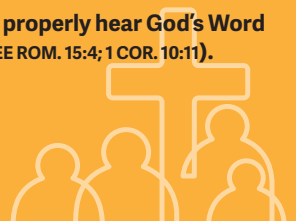
Three-Year:

Introit verses for Advent 2C
Psalm for Proper 4B (ant: v. 13)



SPIRITUAL CARE

- **Instruction in how we should pray.**
- **Against idolatry.**
- **Thanksgiving for forgiveness.**
- **For humility.**
- **To properly hear God's Word**
(SEE ROM. 15:4; 1 COR. 10:11).



PSALM PRAYER

PSALM

81

O Lord, open the mouths of Your people that we may declare Your praise.
As You brought Your people out of Egypt, bring us freedom from the works
of sin, that we may rejoice to confess Your name, even Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.

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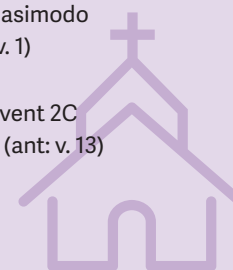
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