

ive thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

(PSALM 136:1)

STRUCTURE

v. 1-3 Thanksgiving is Trinitarian.

v. 4-9 Thanksgiving for God's work of creation.

v. 10-22 Thanksgiving for God's work in history.

v. 23-26 Thanksgiving for God's continuing work.



AT A GLANCE

"MERCY" is from the Hebrew word *hesed* which could also be translated as steadfast love, loyal love, faithful love, lovingkindness, etc.

MORE TO THE STORY Verses 10–15 give an account of the Exodus; verses 16–22 tell of the conquest in Numbers, Deuteronomy and Joshua.

"SIHON" See Num. 21:21.

"OG" See Num. 21:33.

CHRIST IS HERE

The steadfast love and mercy of God is manifested in Christ, through whom the world was created and by whose blood we are rescued and redeemed. The stories of victory told here are complete in His victory over sin, death and hell.



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Twenty-six times this psalm clearly confesses that “His steadfast love endures forever.” This is key to understanding our Lord’s work of creation, redemption and continuing providence. The foundation for all those things is His great love for us. Why did God create the world? It was out of His steadfast love. Why did He repeatedly redeem and rescue His people Israel? It was out of His steadfast love. Why does He continue to rescue and redeem us? It is out of His steadfast love. His steadfast, loyal, faithful love — His mercy — is where we live and move and have our being. That is why we call out for His mercy so often in the Divine Service. To the great events of the Old Testament, we add the fulfillment of the New Testament in Christ’s work. This psalm also teaches us how we are to respond to this unending, steadfast love: with praise and thanksgiving.



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USE IN THE CHURCH

Antiphon: v. 1b

In the Daily Office: Thursdays at Vespers

At the Divine Service:

LSB Psalm for St. Thomas (ant: v. 26)

Verse for Thanksgiving (v. 1)

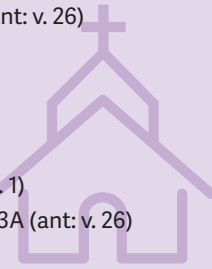
One-Year:

Psalm for Lent 3 (ant: v. 26)

Three-Year:

Troait for Proper 10C (ant: v. 1)

Psalm for Propers 12B and 13A (ant: v. 26)



SPIRITUAL CARE

- For the Church in times of persecution.
- A theological view of Old Testament history.
- During spiritual attack.
- Before confession.
- For encouragement (SEE ROMANS 8).



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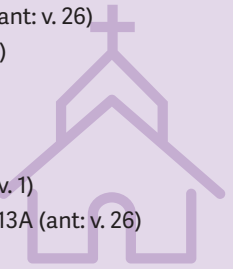
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PSALM PRAYER

We give thanks to You, O Lord, for You made the heavens in Your understanding, and You lift up the learned to wisdom. You established the earth on the water, and erected Your church on the unstable world. Grant that the floods of worldly delights may not overwhelm us, but that the graces we receive may lift us to things above; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

PSALM
136

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