



## PSALM 118

h give thanks to the Lord, for he  
is good; for his steadfast love  
endures forever!

(PSALM 118:1)

### STRUCTURE

- v. 1-4** The Lord's mercy endures forever.
- v. 5-9** The Lord is on my side.
- v. 10-14** The Lord is my strength and song.
- v. 15-21** The Lord's right hand.
- v. 22-24** The Lord's cornerstone.
- v. 25-29** The Lord's salvation.

### AT A GLANCE

**"MERCY"** (v. 1-4) is from the Hebrew word *hesed*, which could also be translated as steadfast love, loyal love, faithful love, lovingkindness, etc.

**"SAVE NOW"** (v. 25) is related to "hosanna."

**DIG DEEPER** Can you find the events of Holy Week (Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter) in this psalm?



## CHRIST IS HERE

The entire psalm can be viewed as a prayer of thanksgiving for the work of Christ on our behalf. He is the stone which the builders rejected that the Lord has made the chief cornerstone. He is the sacrifice that was bound to the altar of the cross. Easter morning is the day that the Lord has made for us.



## PSALM 118

h give thanks to the Lord, for he  
is good; for his steadfast love  
endures forever!

(PSALM 118:1)

### STRUCTURE

- v. 1-4** The Lord's mercy endures forever.
- v. 5-9** The Lord is on my side.
- v. 10-14** The Lord is my strength and song.
- v. 15-21** The Lord's right hand.
- v. 22-24** The Lord's cornerstone.
- v. 25-29** The Lord's salvation.

### AT A GLANCE

**"MERCY"** (v. 1-4) is from the Hebrew word *hesed*, which could also be translated as steadfast love, loyal love, faithful love, lovingkindness, etc.

**"SAVE NOW"** (v. 25) is related to "hosanna."

**DIG DEEPER** Can you find the events of Holy Week (Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter) in this psalm?



## CHRIST IS HERE

The entire psalm can be viewed as a prayer of thanksgiving for the work of Christ on our behalf. He is the stone which the builders rejected that the Lord has made the chief cornerstone. He is the sacrifice that was bound to the altar of the cross. Easter morning is the day that the Lord has made for us.



**Martin Luther said Psalm 118 was his favorite psalm**, his “beloved psalm.” He even said that he would trade all the wealth and power of the Pope and emperor for it. Verse 17 became a sort of motto for him, and he composed a musical setting of it. This is a psalm of thanksgiving for all the benefits that our Lord showers upon us. Each and every one of those blessings is bound up in Christ, who is the very center and fulfillment of all that this psalm confesses. In Him we see the Lord’s mercy and salvation. He is our strength and the very song that we sing. In Him we know that these blessings will endure forever; indeed, they can never run out. Luther points out that as a confession of thanksgiving, this psalm also rebukes our blindness to all the blessings that the Lord daily showers on us. And yet God showers these blessings upon us despite our wickedness and ingratitude. This psalm reminds us that every good and perfect gift flows to us from the pierced side of our crucified and risen Lord, and that it is our duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

**Martin Luther said Psalm 118 was his favorite psalm**, his “beloved psalm.” He even said that he would trade all the wealth and power of the Pope and emperor for it. Verse 17 became a sort of motto for him, and he composed a musical setting of it. This is a psalm of thanksgiving for all the benefits that our Lord showers upon us. Each and every one of those blessings is bound up in Christ, who is the very center and fulfillment of all that this psalm confesses. In Him we see the Lord’s mercy and salvation. He is our strength and the very song that we sing. In Him we know that these blessings will endure forever; indeed, they can never run out. Luther points out that as a confession of thanksgiving, this psalm also rebukes our blindness to all the blessings that the Lord daily showers on us. And yet God showers these blessings upon us despite our wickedness and ingratitude. This psalm reminds us that every good and perfect gift flows to us from the pierced side of our crucified and risen Lord, and that it is our duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

## USE IN THE CHURCH

**Antiphon:** v. 1

**In the Daily Office:** Sundays at Midday (Prime)

**At the Divine Service:** Gradual for Thanksgiving (v. 1), LSB Psalm for Confession of Peter (ant: v. 26)

**One-Year:**

Introit for Easter Wednesday (ant: v. 17)

Gradual for Christmas Dawn (v. 26a, 27a, 23), Easter Sunday and Monday–Wednesday (v. 24) and LSB Trinity 15 (v. 8–9a)

Verse for Cantate (v. 16); historic verse for All Saints (v. 15a)  
Psalm for Lent 1 (ant: v. 5), Palm Sunday (ant: v. 26) and Easter Day (ant: v. 1).

**Three-Year:**

Introit for Easter Tuesday and Wednesday (ant: v. 17) and Proper 22A (ant: v. 1); introit antiphon for Palm Sunday (v. 26); introit verses for Advent 1A (v. 25–28).

Gradual for Sundays in Advent AB (v. 26)

Verse for Advent 1C (v. 7)

Psalm for Palm Sunday (ant: v. 26) and Easter Sunrise (ant: v. 1)

**Hymn:** LSB 903, “This Is the Day the Lord Has Made”

### SPIRITUAL CARE

- In preparation for Holy Communion.
- During times of physical and spiritual trouble.
- After confession, in thanks giving for absolution.
- For meditation on Christ’s passion, Holy Week and the Resurrection.
- Concerning Christ’s person and office.

## USE IN THE CHURCH

**Antiphon:** v. 1

**In the Daily Office:** Sundays at Midday (Prime)

**At the Divine Service:** Gradual for Thanksgiving (v. 1), LSB Psalm for Confession of Peter (ant: v. 26)

**One-Year:**

Introit for Easter Wednesday (ant: v. 17)

Gradual for Christmas Dawn (v. 26a, 27a, 23), Easter Sunday and Monday–Wednesday (v. 24) and LSB Trinity 15 (v. 8–9a)

Verse for Cantate (v. 16); historic verse for All Saints (v. 15a)  
Psalm for Lent 1 (ant: v. 5), Palm Sunday (ant: v. 26) and Easter Day (ant: v. 1).

**Three-Year:**

Introit for Easter Tuesday and Wednesday (ant: v. 17) and Proper 22A (ant: v. 1); introit antiphon for Palm Sunday (v. 26); introit verses for Advent 1A (v. 25–28).

Gradual for Sundays in Advent AB (v. 26)

Verse for Advent 1C (v. 7)

Psalm for Palm Sunday (ant: v. 26) and Easter Sunrise (ant: v. 1)

**Hymn:** LSB 903, “This Is the Day the Lord Has Made”

### SPIRITUAL CARE

- In preparation for Holy Communion.
- During times of physical and spiritual trouble.
- After confession, in thanks giving for absolution.
- For meditation on Christ’s passion, Holy Week and the Resurrection.
- Concerning Christ’s person and office.

## PSALM PRAYER

O most merciful God, our Savior in distress, You fill the tents of the righteous with glad songs of salvation. Lift up Your church with the power of Your right hand, that it may become the gate of righteousness, bind itself together with You as its cornerstone and shine with glory in Your resurrection; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

PSALM  
118

## PSALM PRAYER

O most merciful God, our Savior in distress, You fill the tents of the righteous with glad songs of salvation. Lift up Your church with the power of Your right hand, that it may become the gate of righteousness, bind itself together with You as its cornerstone and shine with glory in Your resurrection; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

PSALM  
118

© 2024 LCMS

This work may be reproduced by churches and schools for their own use in the study of the Scriptures. Commercial reproduction, or reproduction for sale, of any portion of this work or of the work as a whole, without the written permission of the copyright holder, is prohibited.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Psalm prayer by Ludolph of Saxony. Public domain, courtesy of Paul C. Stratman ([acollectionofprayers.com](mailto:acollectionofprayers.com)).

© 2024 LCMS

This work may be reproduced by churches and schools for their own use in the study of the Scriptures. Commercial reproduction, or reproduction for sale, of any portion of this work or of the work as a whole, without the written permission of the copyright holder, is prohibited.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Psalm prayer by Ludolph of Saxony. Public domain, courtesy of Paul C. Stratman ([acollectionofprayers.com](mailto:acollectionofprayers.com)).