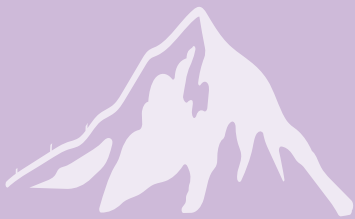


Remember your congregation,  
which you have purchased of old,  
which you have redeemed to be  
the tribe of your heritage!

(PSALM 74:2)

## STRUCTURE

- v. 1-2** Remember Your people, O Lord, and remember Mount Zion.
- v. 3-11** Come see the destruction of Your sanctuary.
- v. 12-17** Trust in the Lord: Yet God is my King!
- v. 18-23** One last plea for God to intervene.



## AT A GLANCE

### MORE TO THE STORY

In Psalm 73, Asaph was reassured by a visit to God's sanctuary (the temple); now, alarmingly, that very sanctuary is being destroyed.

### WHO'S TALKING?

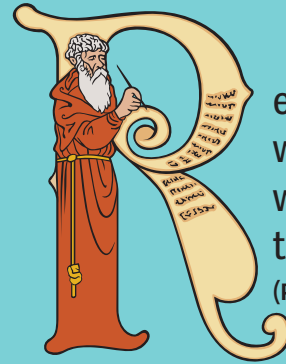
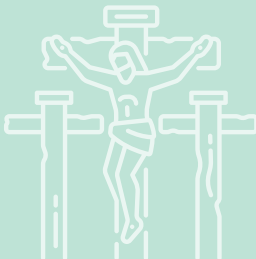
Pay attention to the pronouns: Asaph puts the onus on God, calling the temple "Your sanctuary," which is being threatened by "Your foes," and it is "Your name" that is reviled.

**"LEVIATHAN"** The powers of destruction arrayed against God and His people are symbolized by this creature, described elsewhere as a mighty serpent, crocodile or sea monster.



## CHRIST IS HERE

The violent destruction of Solomon's temple foreshadows the violent destruction of the temple of Christ's body — but as He promised, in three days He raised it again (JOHN 2:19).



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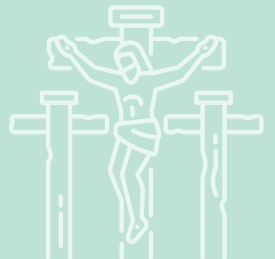
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**Psalm 74** is one of the psalter's most abject laments, mourning over the destruction of the temple by the Babylonians when they conquered Jerusalem in 587 BC. This tragic event is described in vivid, graphic language; the reader can practically watch the violence unfold. The Lord is invited to come and see the destruction, the ruins presented as evidence that His sanctuary has been destroyed and His name reviled. Asaph pleads for the Lord to intervene with deeply emotional language ("How long?"), but he expresses confidence as well. Before the final lament, Asaph acclaims the Lord as king and remembers His mighty acts in creation. The One to whom he cries in the midst of this disaster is the One who has the power to intervene. This expression of confidence forms the basis of a final return to lament. Asaph calls on the Lord to "have regard for the covenant" (v. 20), to "arise" and defend His own cause. Only the Lord has power to save. If God's people are to be delivered, God Himself must do it — and in the person of Jesus, He did.

## SPIRITUAL CARE

- **Against slander.**
- **When facing opposition or hatred for the faith** (SEE ROM. 1:18–31).
- **Against false preachers.**
- **Against false brothers** (SEE GAL. 2:3–5).
- **Against sacrilege.**

## USE IN THE CHURCH

**Antiphon:** v. 2b ("You have redeemed the tribe of Your heritage")

**In the Daily Office:** Thursdays at Matins

**At the Divine Service:**

Historic Gradual for Trinity 13 (v. 20a, 19b, 22)

**One-Year:**

Introit for Trinity 24 (ant: v. 20a, 21a, 22a, 23a)

Gradual for Trinity 25 (v. 4, 2a)

**Three-Year:**

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## PSALM PRAYER

O God, Creator of all the elements, Lord before all worlds, King eternal, remember Your flock which You redeemed with Your own blood, and graciously hear the voices of all who seek You; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

PSALM  
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