

he Lord builds up Jerusalem;
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.
He heals the brokenhearted and
binds up their wounds.

(PSALM 147:2-3)

STRUCTURE

- v. 1** Hallelujah!
- v. 2-9** The Lord builds.
- v. 10-11** The Lord's delight.
- v. 12-18** The Lord blesses.
- v. 19-20** Hallelujah!

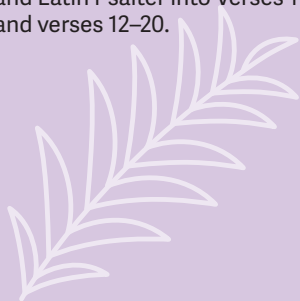


AT A GLANCE

PART OF A WHOLE This is the second psalm of the concluding doxology of the Psalter (PSALM 146-150). It appears to be set after the return from the Babylonian captivity.

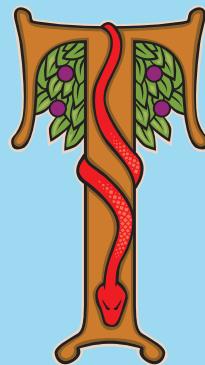
OF A KIND This is a psalm of individual thanksgiving.

NOTE This psalm is divided in the Greek and Latin Psalter into Verses 1-11 and verses 12-20.



CHRIST IS HERE

Every blessing in this life flows to us from the pierced side of Christ. He is the source of everything we receive from the Father's hand.



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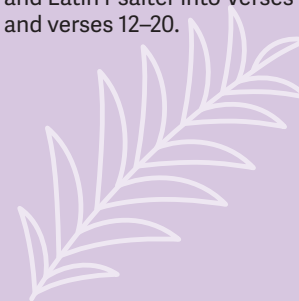


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Every blessing in this life flows to us from the pierced side of Christ. He is the source of everything we receive from the Father's hand.



This psalm praises the Lord for His power and might and omniscience — especially as those who have returned from captivity reflect on how good God has been to them. He is the one who gathered the exiles, built up the holy city Jerusalem and the temple, and even mended their broken hearts. The psalmist appears to answer the question posed in Isaiah 40:12. It is the Lord, through His wisdom and the power of His might, who rules over all things for the good of His people (SEE ROM. 8:28). The Lord delights and takes pleasure in all those who fear Him and hope in His steadfast love. Those who fear and hope in Him respond to His great blessings with praise and thanksgiving. The psalm outlines four blessings that we all receive from God. First, He gives us protection and security. Second, He sustains our towns and communities. Third, He gives us temporal peace. Fourth, He gives us our daily bread. (See Luther's writings on this psalm for a full explanation of these blessings.)



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USE IN THE CHURCH

Antiphon: v. 1b or 13b

In the Daily Office:

Saturdays at Vespers; Vespers for Martyrs (v. 12)

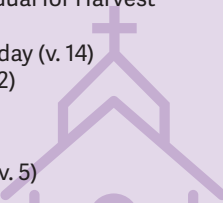
At the Divine Service: Gradual for Harvest Observance (v. 9, 11)
Historic verse for Last Sunday (v. 14)
Psalm for St. Luke (ant: v. 12)

One-Year:

Verse for Trinity 22 (v. 3)
Psalm for Jubilate (ant: v. 5)

Three-Year:

Introit for Propers 21A (ant: v. 6) and 14C (ant: v. 7); introit verses for Christmas 2 and Proper 11B
Verse for Proper 15A and 18B (v. 2–3)
Psalm for Epiphany 5B (ant: v. 5)



SPIRITUAL CARE

- In thanksgiving (see "Returning thanks," Small Catechism).
- Against sloth.
- At a baptism.
- At the dedication or anniversary of a church.



PSALM PRAYER

PSALM
147

O God, builder of the heavenly Jerusalem, You determine the number of the stars and give all of them their names. Heal those with broken hearts, gather the outcasts and enrich us with Your infinite wisdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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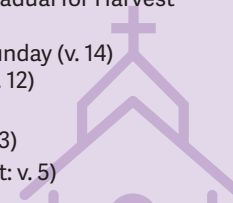
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