

PSALM

115

ot to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

(PSALM 115)

STRUCTURE

- v. 1-2** Introduction: Not to us, but to Your Name, O God, be glory.
- v. 3-8** Our God is living; their gods are lifeless.
- v. 9-13** Trust in the Lord! He is our help and shield.
- v. 14-18** Benediction: May the Lord bless us, as we bless the Lord!

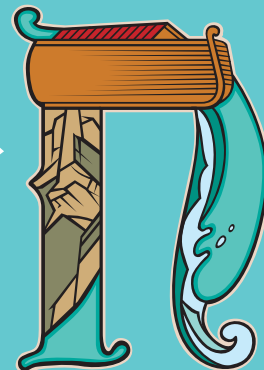
AT A GLANCE

- PART OF A WHOLE** Psalm 115 comes amidst the "Egyptian Hallel," which receives its name from the Exodus themes found throughout, as well as its liturgical usage in later Judaism.
- "WHERE IS YOUR GOD?"** Throughout the Old Testament, the faithful plead for the Lord to intervene by reminding Him of the mockery of the nations.
- "FOREVER AND FOREVERMORE"** The Old Testament, contrary to scholarly opinion, has many references to life after death, even resurrection; even death cannot end our praise!
- NOTE** This psalm is combined with Psalm 114 in the Greek and Latin Psalter.

CHRIST IS HERE

In the incarnation, death and resurrection of Christ, God acted for the sake of His Name, His steadfast love and faithfulness, without any merit or worthiness in us. Even in His death, He is the living God.

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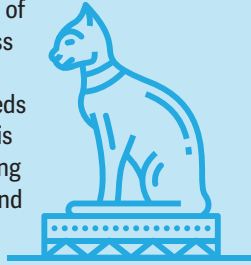
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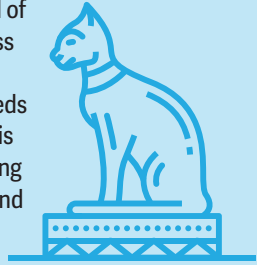
In the incarnation, death and resurrection of Christ, God acted for the sake of His Name, His steadfast love and faithfulness, without any merit or worthiness in us. Even in His death, He is the living God.

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The Old Testament not only condemns idols as wrong and wicked, it also mocks idolatry as foolish and silly. In praying Psalm 115, we boldly declare that “Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases” (v. 3), mocking the worship of idols. A statue to which a pagan bows down may have all the features of a living being, but none of them have life; they cannot do anything. In fact, those who worship such idols become exactly like them: cold, lifeless, unable to do anything of use. Eventually they die without hope. Their uselessness stands in sharp contrast to the living God, who is the help and shield of all who trust in Him. He has remembered His people, and He will bless them, not because His people are so worth — but, as this psalm declares in the very first verse, for the sake of His own name. The deeds of God are not predicated on any merit in His people, but solely on His character. Dead idols are worshipped by those who are dead; the living God is praised by the living, who worship Him “from this time forth and forevermore!” (v. 18).



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USE IN THE CHURCH

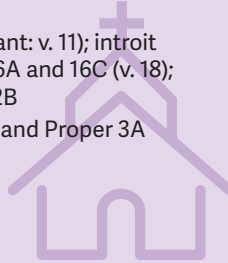
Antiphon: v. 18a

In the Daily Office: Saturdays at Matins

At the Divine Service:
Sundays at Vespers (with Psalm 114)

One-Year:
Verse for Trinity 16 and Trinity 23 (v. 1)

Three-Year:
Introit for Proper 27C (ant: v. 11); introit antiphon for Propers 16A and 16C (v. 18); introit verses for Lent 2B
Psalm for Epiphany 8A and Proper 3A (ant: v. 1)



SPIRITUAL CARE

- Against pride/for growth in humility.
- For divine help.
- When temptation strikes (SEE HEB. 4:15).
- Pondering the foolishness of the idolatrous heart.
- During worship (or before).



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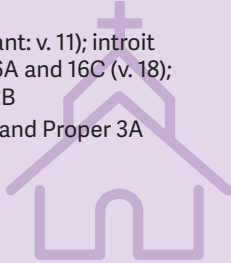
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PSALM PRAYER

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O Lord, even though You made us of the earth, You created us to live for You in heavenly praise. Be our helper and shield as we put our trust in You; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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