

reatly have they afflicted me from my youth, yet they have not prevailed against me.

(PSALM 129:2)

STRUCTURE

- v. 1-2** The psalmist begins to lament, then invites Israel to sing also. They know the response: not only sorrow, but also confidence in the Lord.
- v. 3** A poetic description of affliction, perhaps of whipping.
- v. 4** The Lord will not let the wicked prevail or harrow His people forever.
- v. 5-8** An imprecatory prayer against unbelievers: Let them become as worthless chaff in the wind, the opposite of lasting fruits. Let them receive no blessings like God's people receive.

AT A GLANCE

- PART OF A WHOLE** One of the *Psalms of Ascent* (120-134)
- "FURROWS"** The long rows plowed by a farmer for planting a field.
- "CORDS OF THE WICKED"** Chains or rope. Here, an image of imprisonment and constant torment from the wicked.
- "SHEAVES"** A bundle of harvested wheat.

CHRIST IS HERE

Christ came "in the name of the Lord" to bless His people with righteousness. To do so, He endured the whip on His back and healed us by these stripes (ISAIAH 53:5, 1 PETER 2:24).

יהוה



reatly have they afflicted me from my youth, yet they have not prevailed against me.

(PSALM 129:2)

STRUCTURE

- v. 1-2** The psalmist begins to lament, then invites Israel to sing also. They know the response: not only sorrow, but also confidence in the Lord.
- v. 3** A poetic description of affliction, perhaps of whipping.
- v. 4** The Lord will not let the wicked prevail or harrow His people forever.
- v. 5-8** An imprecatory prayer against unbelievers: Let them become as worthless chaff in the wind, the opposite of lasting fruits. Let them receive no blessings like God's people receive.

AT A GLANCE

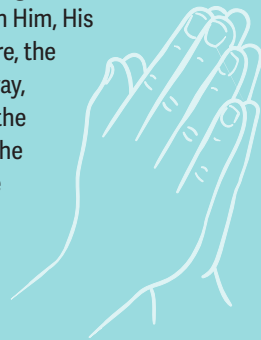
- PART OF A WHOLE** One of the *Psalms of Ascent* (120-134)
- "FURROWS"** The long rows plowed by a farmer for planting a field.
- "CORDS OF THE WICKED"** Chains or rope. Here, an image of imprisonment and constant torment from the wicked.
- "SHEAVES"** A bundle of harvested wheat.

CHRIST IS HERE

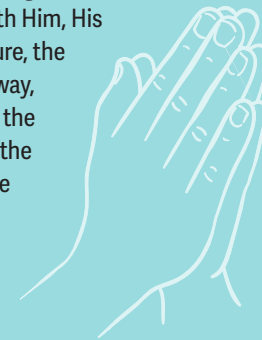
Christ came "in the name of the Lord" to bless His people with righteousness. To do so, He endured the whip on His back and healed us by these stripes (ISAIAH 53:5, 1 PETER 2:24).

יהוה

The Lord's people are taught and disciplined by the Lord — not only by the Word of God, but also through trials and suffering. They are permitted to lament and cry out to God about the anguish or affliction they bear. The Christian church is made stronger as it sings and prays not only individually but also together. Such lament is not only a cry of pain, but also a cry of faith: We call to the Lord, who is righteous and who will save us. Without Him, the enemies would prevail; with Him, His people win the victory. Remembering the promises of Scripture, the psalmist leads Israel to cry out against his assailants. In this way, even when affliction increases, it drives the believer closer to the Lord, our righteousness. “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” (JOEL 2:32, ROM. 10:13). Unbelievers neither love nor use the Lord's name. It is as a curse against them. The Lord's people love His Name and are bold to use it in prayer and to comfort their fellow believers.



The Lord's people are taught and disciplined by the Lord — not only by the Word of God, but also through trials and suffering. They are permitted to lament and cry out to God about the anguish or affliction they bear. The Christian church is made stronger as it sings and prays not only individually but also together. Such lament is not only a cry of pain, but also a cry of faith: We call to the Lord, who is righteous and who will save us. Without Him, the enemies would prevail; with Him, His people win the victory. Remembering the promises of Scripture, the psalmist leads Israel to cry out against his assailants. In this way, even when affliction increases, it drives the believer closer to the Lord, our righteousness. “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” (JOEL 2:32, ROM. 10:13). Unbelievers neither love nor use the Lord's name. It is as a curse against them. The Lord's people love His Name and are bold to use it in prayer and to comfort their fellow believers.



USE IN THE CHURCH

Antiphon: v. 8b

In the Daily Office: Wednesdays at Vespers

At the Divine Service:

One-Year:
Tract for Lent 5 (v. 1–4)



SPIRITUAL CARE

- Before going to church.
- During persecution.
- Before a contentious meeting.
- For instruction in salvation.
- To strengthen faith.
- To remind the Lord of His promises to His people.

USE IN THE CHURCH

Antiphon: v. 8b

In the Daily Office: Wednesdays at Vespers

At the Divine Service:

One-Year:
Tract for Lent 5 (v. 1–4)



SPIRITUAL CARE

- Before going to church.
- During persecution.
- Before a contentious meeting.
- For instruction in salvation.
- To strengthen faith.
- To remind the Lord of His promises to His people.

PSALM PRAYER

PSALM
129

O Lord, defend Your Church and protect it with Your right hand. Cut the cords of the wicked and do not let them prevail against us. When You put Your Church's enemies to shame and turn them backward, let Your blessing be on us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM PRAYER

PSALM
129

O Lord, defend Your Church and protect it with Your right hand. Cut the cords of the wicked and do not let them prevail against us. When You put Your Church's enemies to shame and turn them backward, let Your blessing be on us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.