

**PSALM**  
**109**



Deal on my behalf for your name's sake,  
O God; because your steadfast love is  
good, deliver me!

(PSALM 109:21)

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**STRUCTURE**

- v. 1-5** A cry for help against the enemy.
- v. 6-20** May God curse them.
- v. 21-29** A plea for help.
- v. 30-31** A vow of praise and confidence in God.



**AT A GLANCE**

- INWARDLY DIGEST** Instead of taking his own vengeance, David expresses his desires for justice and then commits the matter to God.
- WHO'S TALKING?** Notice the shift from plural enemies in the opening verses to speaking of one particular man.
- THIS SOUNDS FAMILIAR** Peter quotes this psalm in Acts 1:20 as part of the basis for choosing a replacement for Judas.

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Jesus came to His own, but they did not receive Him (JOHN 1:11). They slandered Him, plotted His death with the aid of one of His own disciples, and scorned Him on the cross (v. 25).

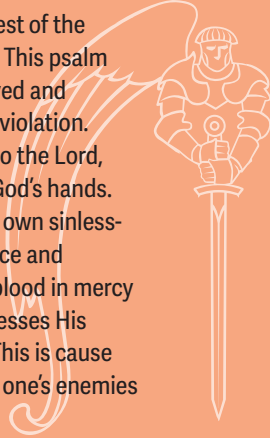


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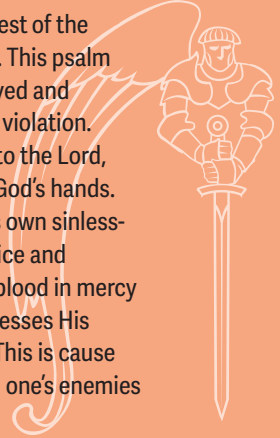
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**This can be a difficult psalm to pray today.** It is perhaps the harshest of the imprecatory psalms, in which God is invoked to curse other people. This psalm enables God's people to pray when they have been wronged, betrayed and slandered. Such wrongs lead to a natural and inescapable sense of violation. What is a Christian to do with such feelings? David presents them to the Lord, commending the judgment upon unbelief and impenitent sin into God's hands. He then meditates upon his own hope of salvation, which is not his own sinlessness, but rather God's mercy and aid. It was through such an injustice and betrayal, prophesied in this very psalm, that Christ poured out His blood in mercy for the sins of the world. Enemies may attack and curse, but God blesses His people and will exercise His judgment on all who refuse to repent. This is cause for thanksgiving and praise to God. Being saved also means that all one's enemies will eventually be put to shame.



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## USE IN THE CHURCH

**Antiphon:** v. 30a

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

**At the Divine Service:**

Historic Gradual for St. Stephen (v. 26)



## SPIRITUAL CARE

- When experiencing betrayal.
- For young people in times of turmoil.
- For the church and its faithful confession.
- In thanksgiving for the Word of God.
- Against abandoning the faith.
- Anticipating the return of Christ.

## PSALM PRAYER

O Eternal Christ, You saved us according to Your steadfast love. You endured a curse to deliver us from the curse of the law. Deliver us from the sins that threaten us and from the wicked who would harm us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

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