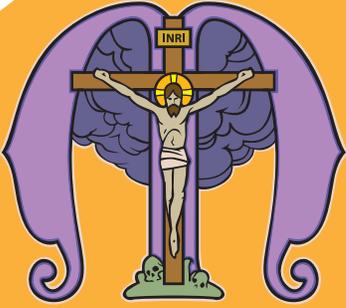


PSALM
104



ay the glory of the Lord endure forever;
may the Lord rejoice in his works, who looks
on the earth and it trembles, who touches
the mountains and they smoke!

(PSALM 104:31-32)

STRUCTURE

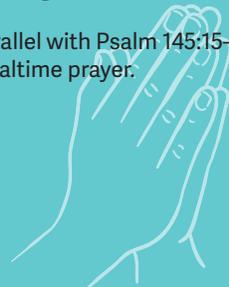
- v. 1-4 God is Lord over the features of the heavens.
- v. 5-9 God is Lord over the features of the earth.
- v. 10-13 God is Lord over the created beasts.
- v. 14-15 God is Lord over man and wants him to be happy.
- v. 16-18 Nature produces harmony among beasts and plants.
- v. 19-23 Time produces harmony among beasts and man.
- v. 24-26 Reiteration of God's lordship over created things.
- v. 27-35 God's presence sustains life and His absence destroys life.

AT A GLANCE

WHO'S TALKING? This psalm begins as a conversation between the psalmist and his soul. It then shifts between confessing back to God what He has already done and spreading the report to others about the magnificent works of the Lord.

AUTHOR There is no superscription for this psalm in the Hebrew Bible, though it is ascribed to David in the Septuagint.

THIS SOUNDS FAMILIAR Parallel with Psalm 145:15-16 as a mealtime prayer.



CHRIST IS HERE

We know it was by the Son that all things were made (COL. 1:16), so when the psalmist sings praises to the Lord, it is indeed the same Word who was with God in the beginning and who was God (JOHN 1).



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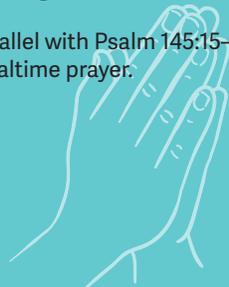
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This psalm teaches us how to meditate on the First Article of the Creed. God is not only the initial creator of all things, but also the one who preserves all of nature. Through nature He both blesses and chastises His people. All the world is subject to its Creator, so even waters, mountains and valleys shudder and move when the Lord commands them to. Nature then springs up with water and food for beasts, and more profoundly oil, bread and wine to gladden the heart of man. In these, by the Lord's ordering, the elements for both Baptism and the Sacrament of the Altar are given to us. This psalm revels at length in the works of God, over which man has been given a part in exercising dominion. Let sinners scoff; it is fitting for all people to delight and praise God for His glory, both in His continual providence and in His salvation in Christ.



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USE IN THE CHURCH

Antiphon: v. 1a

In the Daily Office: Saturdays at Matins; Matins on Pentecost

At the Divine Service:

Introit for Day of Thanksgiving (ant: v. 33) and Harvest Observance (ant: v. 31)

One-Year:

Pentecost Tuesday (v. 30); LSB for Pentecost

Three-Year:

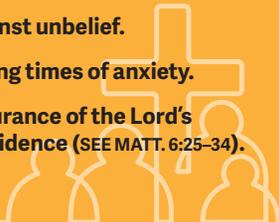
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Psalm for Proper 21B (ant: v. 24)

Hymns: LSB 804, "O Worship the King"

SPIRITUAL CARE

- During financial difficulties, unemployment or income loss.
- To uphold the goodness of God's creation in the midst of confusion and attack (e.g. distortion of God's design for sexuality, failure to care for creation, etc.)
- Against unbelief.
- During times of anxiety.
- Assurance of the Lord's providence (SEE MATT. 6:25–34).



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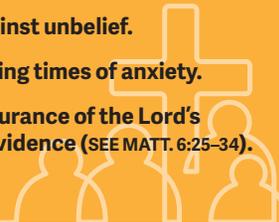
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PSALM PRAYER

Lord God Almighty, You have made one day of the evening, the morning and noon, and have ordered the sun in its rising and setting. Make Your way through the darkness of our hearts, that being enlightened by You, we may know You as the true God and our eternal light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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