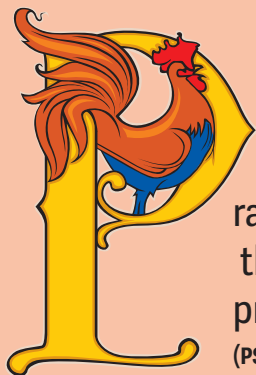


PSALM  
146



raise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise  
the Lord as long as I live; I will sing  
praises to my God while I have my being.  
(PSALM 146:1-2)

## STRUCTURE

- v. 1-2** I will praise the Lord as long as I live!
- v. 3-4** Put not your trust in men, even in princes.
- v. 5-6** Blessed is the one who hopes in the God who created all things.
- v. 7-10** Blessed is the one who hopes in the God who saves the downcast.

## AT A GLANCE

- PART OF A WHOLE** After David's voice is heard for the last time in the psalter, calling on "all flesh" to join his praise of the Lord (PSALM 145:21), Psalms 146–150 answer his call.
- "EXECUTE JUSTICE"** The prophets constantly accused God's people of perverting justice, of trampling on the poor and needy contrary to His express command.
- "OPENS THE EYES OF THE BLIND"** The Old Testament contains no miracle of sight restored to a blind man; for that we must wait for Jesus.

## CHRIST IS HERE

Psalm 146 gives us a vivid description of Christ's work, as He lifted up the weak and oppressed during His life and set the prisoners of sin and death free with His saving death.



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**Israel was God's chosen nation;** they had the God of the universe as their King. He had a unique relationship with them that no other nation could claim. Yet their temptation, manifested again and again, was to put their trust in earthly rulers. Psalm 146 calls upon God's people to give up their trust in princes. They are mortal, bound to this earth, and they will die just like any other man. No prince can work salvation. The psalmist instead speaks a beatitude: "Blessed" are those who trust in the God of Jacob, the true God. Why? First of all, because this God created all things, as the psalmist praises God for the gifts of the First Article. But he then moves quickly to the gifts of the Second Article, the great reversal that the final Davidic king, a man from David's line, yet more than a man, God Himself, will bring. The oppressed are exalted, the hungry fed, the prisoners freed, the weak and the vulnerable lifted up, but the wicked will be cast down. For God's people have a king: "The Lord will reign forever" (v. 10). Mere men cannot save God's people; they need the God of Jacob.



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## USE IN THE CHURCH

**Antiphon:** v. 2a

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

**At the Divine Service:** Psalm for St. Mark (ant: v. 5)

**One-Year:**

Psalm for Quinquagesima (ant: v. 2), Trinity 12 (ant: v. 8) and Trinity 15 (ant: v. 9a)

**Three-Year:**

Introit antiphon for Proper 23A (v. 2); introit verses for Advent 3C

Psalm for Advent 3A (ant: v. 5); Easter 5A, Proper 18B and Proper 21C (ant: v. 2); and Proper 27B (ant: v. 9a)

**Hymn:** LSB 797, "Praise the Almighty, My Soul, Adore Him"

## SPIRITUAL CARE

- In praise for God's love and mercy.
- Against pride in our own accomplishments.
- When despairing of God's favor.
- For wisdom concerning life decisions.
- To teach proper faith.

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## PSALM PRAYER

O Lord, You lift up those who are cast down. You free the prisoners and give sight to the blind. Lift us also when we are low. Free us when sins bind us, and enlighten us when clouds of ignorance surround us, that our souls may always praise You in humble and faithful devotion. Since our very lives are Your gift, may we serve You all our days; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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146