



PSALM

68

ou ascended on high,
leading a host of captives in your train.

(PSALM 68:18)

STRUCTURE

- v. 1-6** God shall arise, scattering His enemies and saving His people.
- v. 7-10** God came in the past to deliver His people in the wilderness.
- v. 11-18** The Lord is victorious; His enemies are mocked.
- v. 19-23** The Lord has fulfilled His promises; His people have returned.
- v. 24-35** The victory procession enters the city and the sanctuary.

AT A GLANCE

PART OF A WHOLE

Starting with Psalm 51, the preceding psalms have made vows to offer sacrifice and praise in the temple, which here are fulfilled in the Lord's presence.

"SINAI"

The mountain of God's presence in the wilderness is only mentioned here in the entire psalter, invoked to link God's future coming with His past deeds.

"MOUNTAIN OF BASHAN"

Bashan was one of the nations that refused to give Israel passage in their journey to the Promised Land, and so in the Psalms it is symbolic of all opposed to the Lord.



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**CHRIST
IS HERE**

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Psalms 68 is a *tour de force*, describing in great, triumphant detail the response of the Lord in answer to the cries of His people. He is coming, and He is coming in great victory. He is no longer coming in judgment, as we hear threatened or described elsewhere in Scripture, but fulfilling the promises in Isaiah and in other psalms before this one. Indeed, this psalm answers the cry of God's people that concludes the Bible: "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" (REV. 22:20). The Lord is described as a king who leads His people in a victory procession into the sanctuary. This is a psalm of the sanctuary, which is restored as the Lord has come back to His own abode. He has returned in victory, having conquered the foes of His people and restored them to their former position. Reminiscent of passages in the prophets, Psalm 68 declares that the nations who once stood against the Lord will now come obedient, bearing tribute. The concluding refrain summarizes the tone of this psalm of praise: "Awesome is God from his sanctuary; the God of Israel — he is the one who gives power and strength to his people. Blessed be God!" (v. 35).

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USE IN THE CHURCH

Antiphon: v. 26a

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

At the Divine Service:

Historic verse for martyrs

Historic introit for Pentecost (v. 28b–29, ant:
"Come, Holy Spirit ...")

LSB introit for the Vigil of Pentecost
(v. 32–35, ant: v. 19)

One-Year:

Introit for Pentecost (ant: v. 3) and
Trinity 11 (ant: v. 5b, 6a, 35b)

Verse for Ascension (v. 17b–18a).

Three-Year:

Psalm for Easter 7A (ant: v. 32)

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SPIRITUAL CARE

- In preparation for the Divine Service.
- Instruction in the joy of worshipping God.
- Mediation on Christ's Passion and exaltation.
- Thanksgiving for healing.
- For widows/widowers.
- For those who mourn.

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PSALM PRAYER

O Lord, You ascended on high, leading captivity captive. By the triumph of Your victory, deliver us from the captivity of the devil, that as You give Your gifts to Your people, we may fully share in them all; through You, Lord Jesus Christ, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit are one God, now and forever. Amen.

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