



ou, O Lord, are a God merciful
and gracious, slow to anger and abounding
in steadfast love and faithfulness.

(PSALM 86:15)

STRUCTURE

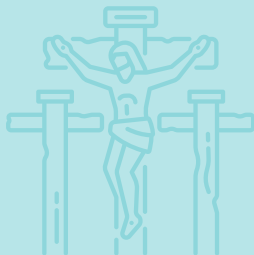
- v. 1-4** David's cry of faith for God's help.
- v. 5-10** The goodness and power of God.
- v. 11-13** David's prayer for instruction and thanksgiving to God.
- v. 14-17** Prayer for God's grace and favor.

AT A GLANCE

- MORE TO THE STORY** The likely context for this psalm is David suffering attacks from either the forces of Saul or the allies of Absalom.
- IN A WORD** David begins with three petitions for help and declares of his faithfulness. He then bases his prayer on God's character: steadfast love and faithfulness.
- AMONG THE "GODS"** The mention of "other gods" (v. 8) doesn't imply their reality (SEE v. 10), but confesses God as greater than all other supposed deities and powers (SEE 1 Cor. 4-6).

CHRIST IS HERE

The true Servant of God (MARK 10:45) came poor and needy with no place to lay His head, and when put to death was raised from the dead.



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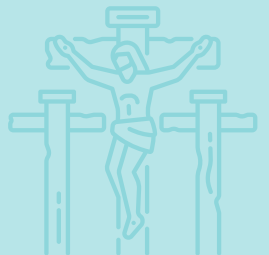
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The true Servant of God (MARK 10:45) came poor and needy with no place to lay His head, and when put to death was raised from the dead.



This is the only psalm of David in the Third Book of Psalms. While it is made up of various statements that occur throughout the rest of the psalms, it is masterfully arranged. The psalm begins and ends with David's prayer for God's help. The Lord's forgiving, merciful and gracious nature revealed to Moses in Exodus 34 is confessed in verses 5 and 15. At the heart of the psalm is the greatness of the God who does wondrous things, who is indeed the only God. These wondrous things are seen in v. 7 and 13: God answers David in the day of trouble. His steadfast love is seen in His delivering David's soul from the depths of Sheol. This carefully crafted psalm models Christian prayer: It is anchored in the Lord's gracious character, which is known from the Scriptures. This character provides the basis for David and every Christian to praise this God, bringing their needs and petitions to Him with confidence.



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USE IN THE CHURCH

Antiphon: v. 1a

In the Daily Office: Fridays at Matins; Matins on Epiphany

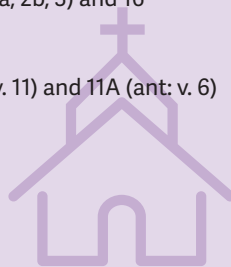
At the Divine Service:

One-Year:

Introit for Trinity 15 (ant: v. 1a, 2b, 3) and 16 (ant: v. 3, 5)

Three-Year:

Introit for Propers 4C (ant: v. 11) and 11A (ant: v. 6)



SPIRITUAL CARE

- When betrayed.
- In praise of God's goodness.
- When trouble befalls us.
- When sick or near death.
- When doubt haunts us.



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Antiphon: v. 1a

In the Daily Office: Fridays at Matins; Matins on Epiphany

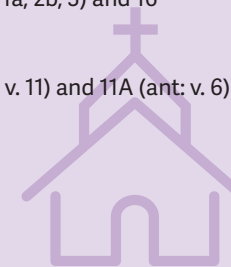
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PSALM

86

PSALM PRAYER

O Lord, gladden Your servants and deliver our souls from the depths of the grave. Protect us by Your mercy and give us strength to tread fleshly desires under foot; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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