

## Sing to the Lord a New Song

The Psalm for All Saints Sunday is Psalm 149. This psalm clearly marks the Psalms as the prayer book (liturgical book of prayer and praise) of OT Israel.

**Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the godly! 2 Let Israel be glad in his Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King! 3 Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre! 4 For the LORD takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with salvation. 5 Let the godly exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their beds. 6 Let the high praises of God be in their throats and two-edged swords in their hands, 7 to execute vengeance on the nations and punishments on the peoples, 8 to bind their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron, 9 to execute on them the judgment written! This is honor for all his godly ones. Praise the LORD!**

This is one of five Hallelujah psalms at the end of the book of Psalms. It was written after the exiles had returned from captivity.

The “new song” spoken of in verse one meant that they were to sing a song after each time that God blessed them with kind gifts.

Verses 2-5 speak of a time when King (the Lord) crowned them with the honor of salvation. It is a description of the joyful praise which Israel poured out during their festivals.

Verse 3 speaks of dancing. There are no indications of dancing in temple worship. It was employed in festival processions. After victories they would go up to Jerusalem dancing, as David did when he brought the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem.

Verses 6-9 have Israel praising their God for giving them victory over their enemies. This was especially true of his judgment on the Canaanites. They had opposed God’s people at every turn. In the NT age, however, God’s people are armed with the “sword of the Spirit” for overcoming the powers arrayed against God’s kingdom.

Salvation is a gift, a kind of clothing, and the pleasure the Lord takes in His people. Salvation is not on account of our works. We rejoice and praise God for all that he has done for us and continues to do. He brought us into his kingdom through baptism and continues to nourish our faith through his Word and holy communion. He continues to protect us from the devil and all his angels. And, one day he will welcome us into heaven.

Prayer: O Christ, our King, we praise you in the Church! When we worship and when we are alone, we adore you. Give us courage to engage in spiritual warfare—against the world, our flesh, and the devil—with the two-edged sword of your Word, and grant us the victory. Amen. (TLSB)