

## *His Steadfast Love Endures Forever*

### **Psalm 136**

**Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. 2 Give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever. 3 Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures forever...**

The 136<sup>th</sup> psalm is a psalm of thanks. The reason for giving thanks is that **his steadfast love endures forever**.

There are 25 verses in this psalm and that refrain is repeated in every verse. It is used 125 times in the psalms.

The word “steadfast” means an unwavering devotion by the Lord to his people. Luther says it is “goodness in action” (AE 14:50).

Love is a word which has the connotation of undeserved love and mercy, and it often refers to deeds of love and mercy which are a fulfillment of a covenant. The psalm summarizes the Lord’s covenant faithfulness to his people and calls upon them to praise him for his loving deeds.

- 1) The Lord should be praised for his everlasting love because he alone is the sovereign Lord God (vv. 1-3)
- 2) The Lord’s loyal love created the heavens and the earth. (vv. 4-9)
- 3) The Lord’s loyal love redeemed his people from bondage. (vv. 10-16)
- 4) The Lord’s loyal love provided an inheritance for his people. (vv. 17-22)
- 5) The Lord’s loyal love protected his people and provided for his people. (23-24)
- 6) The Lord should be praised for his everlasting love. (v. 25)

This great psalm of thanksgiving praises God for His acts of creation and redemption, both in history and in the lives of His people. Every detail, at every stage, is a sign of God’s steadfast love, which, throughout human history, endures forever. The psalm is all about God’s action, not ours. (TLSB)

Prayer: O, Lord, we thank you that as we live our lives, with all the highs and lows, joys and trials, your steadfast love is there for us at every moment; it endures forever. Through Christ, our redemption. Amen. (TLSB)