

# Psalm 149

## Praise him, all his people

(*The Lutheran Study Bible*, page 992)

### Look

- Verse 1      *“A new song”*—At various places, the Lord encourages us to sing a new song. This new song is not like the latest piece being played on the radio. Rather, it contains an eternal, ever-present newness. Apart from God’s promises and our Savior, our song can only be one of work-righteousness, despair, and visions of hell. But the new song we sing in Christ (that the Old Testament believers could sing by faith in God’s promises) is a song of compassion, forgiveness, and visions of eternal life in heaven. Verses 4 and 5 explain the nature of this new song.
- Verse 3      Some churches have incorporated liturgical dance into their worship services. There is no evidence, however, that dancing was done in worship either at the tabernacle or the temple. Rather, dancing was a natural part of festive processions, such as when David brought the ark to Jerusalem. See 2 Samuel 6:14.
- Verses 5–9    This psalm speaks about how the believers are punishing the unbelievers. On the imprecatory psalms, see *The People’s Bible Commentary, Psalms 1*, pp. 11–14 (CPH, 2005).

### Discuss

1. This psalm discusses two activities God has called his people to engage in. What are they?
2. The “two-edged sword” of verse 6 is mentioned elsewhere in the Bible; see Hebrews 4:12 and Revelation 1:16; 19:15. What are the weapons we use in battle?

### Apply

3. How are we to “execute vengeance on the nations and punishments on the peoples”?

*Praise the Lord because he has gathered us together as fellow believers and because he has given us his powerful Word.*