

Psalms for Evening Prayer

Week of March 23

Monday, March 23

Psalm 89.19-52 *Tunc locutus es*

- 19 You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: *
 “I have set the crown upon a warrior
 and have exalted one chosen out of the people.
- 20 I have found David my servant; *
 with my holy oil have I anointed him.
- 21 My hand will hold him fast *
 and my arm will make him strong.
- 22 No enemy shall deceive him, *
 nor any wicked man bring him down.
- 23 I will crush his foes before him *
 and strike down those who hate him.
- 24 My faithfulness and love shall be with him, *
 and he shall be victorious through my Name.
- 25 I shall make his dominion extend *
 from the Great Sea to the River.
- 26 He will say to me, ‘You are my Father, *
 my God, and the rock of my salvation.’
- 27 I will make him my firstborn *
 and higher than the kings of the earth.
- 28 I will keep my love for him for ever, *
 and my covenant will stand firm for him.
- 29 I will establish his line for ever *
 and his throne as the days of heaven.”
- 30 “If his children forsake my law *
 and do not walk according to my judgments;
- 31 If they break my statutes *
 and do not keep my commandments;
- 32 I will punish their transgressions with a rod *
 and their iniquities with the lash;
- 33 But I will not take my love from him, *
 nor let my faithfulness prove false.
- 34 I will not break my covenant, *
 nor change what has gone out of my lips.

35 Once for all I have sworn by my holiness: *
 'I will not lie to David.
36 His line shall endure for ever *
 and his throne as the sun before me;
37 It shall stand fast for evermore like the moon, *
 the abiding witness in the sky.'"
38 But you have cast off and rejected your anointed; *
 you have become enraged at him.
39 You have broken your covenant with your servant, *
 defiled his crown, and hurled it to the ground.
40 You have breached all his walls *
 and laid his strongholds in ruins.
41 All who pass by despoil him; *
 he has become the scorn of his neighbors.
42 You have exalted the right hand of his foes *
 and made all his enemies rejoice.
43 You have turned back the edge of his sword *
 and have not sustained him in battle.
44 You have put an end to his splendor *
 and cast his throne to the ground.
45 You have cut short the days of his youth *
 and have covered him with shame.
46 How long will you hide yourself, O Lord?
 will you hide yourself for ever? *
 how long will your anger burn like fire?
47 Remember, Lord, how short life is, *
 how frail you have made all flesh.
48 Who can live and not see death? *
 who can save himself from the power of the grave?
49 Where, Lord, are your loving-kindnesses of old, *
 which you promised David in your faithfulness?
50 Remember, Lord, how your servant is mocked, *
 how I carry in my bosom the taunts of many peoples,
51 The taunts your enemies have hurled, O Lord, *
 which they hurled at the heels of your anointed.
52 Blessed be the Lord for evermore! *
 Amen, I say, Amen.

Tuesday, March 24

Psalm 94 *Deus ultionum*

- 1 O Lord God of vengeance, *
O God of vengeance, show yourself
- 2 Rise up, O Judge of the world; *
give the arrogant their just deserts.
- 3 How long shall the wicked, O Lord, *
how long shall the wicked triumph?
- 4 They bluster in their insolence; *
all evildoers are full of boasting.
- 5 They crush your people, O Lord, *
and afflict your chosen nation.
- 6 They murder the widow and the stranger *
and put the orphans to death.
- 7 Yet they say, "The Lord does not see, *
the God of Jacob takes no notice."
- 8 Consider well, you dullards among the people; *
when will you fools understand?
- 9 He that planted the ear, does he not hear? *
he that formed the eye, does he not see?
- 10 He who admonishes the nations, will he not punish? *
he who teaches all the world, has he no knowledge?
- 11 The Lord knows our human thoughts; *
how like a puff of wind they are.
- 12 Happy are they whom you instruct, O Lord! *
whom you teach out of your law;
- 13 To give them rest in evil days, *
until a pit is dug for the wicked.
- 14 For the Lord will not abandon his people, *
nor will he forsake his own.
- 15 For judgment will again be just, *
and all the true of heart will follow it.
- 16 Who rose up for me against the wicked? *
who took my part against the evildoers?
- 17 If the Lord had not come to my help, *
I should soon have dwelt in the land of silence.
- 18 As often as I said, "My foot has slipped," *
your love, O Lord, upheld me.
- 19 When many cares fill my mind, *
your consolations cheer my soul.

20 Can a corrupt tribunal have any part with you, *
one which frames evil into law?
21 They conspire against the life of the just *
and condemn the innocent to death.
22 But the Lord has become my stronghold, *
and my God the rock of my trust.
23 He will turn their wickedness back upon them
and destroy them in their own malice; *
the Lord our God will destroy them.

Psalm 95 *Venite, exultemus*

1 Come, let us sing to the Lord; *
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
2 Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.
3 For the Lord is a great God, *
and a great King above all gods.
4 In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are his also.
5 The sea is his, for he made it, *
and his hands have molded the dry land.
6 Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
7 For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!
8 Harden not your hearts,
as your forebears did in the wilderness, *
at Meribah, and on that day at Massah,
when they tempted me.
9 They put me to the test, *
though they had seen my works.
10 Forty years long I detested that generation and said, *
“This people are wayward in their hearts;
they do not know my ways.”
11 So I swore in my wrath, *
“They shall not enter into my rest.”

Wednesday, March 25

Psalm 119.121-144

Ayin *Feci iudicium*

- 121 I have done what is just and right; *
do not deliver me to my oppressors.
- 122 Be surety for your servant's good; *
let not the proud oppress me.
- 123 My eyes have failed from watching for your salvation *
and for your righteous promise.
- 124 Deal with your servant according to your loving-kindness *
and teach me your statutes.
- 125 I am your servant; grant me understanding, *
that I may know your decrees.
- 126 It is time for you to act, O Lord, *
for they have broken your law.
- 127 Truly, I love your commandments *
more than gold and precious stones.
- 128 I hold all your commandments to be right for me; *
all paths of falsehood I abhor.

Pe *Mirabilia*

- 129 Your decrees are wonderful; *
therefore I obey them with all my heart.
- 130 When your word goes forth it gives light; *
it gives understanding to the simple.
- 131 I open my mouth and pant; *
I long for your commandments.
- 132 Turn to me in mercy, *
as you always do to those who love your Name.
- 133 Steady my footsteps in your word; *
let no iniquity have dominion over me.
- 134 Rescue me from those who oppress me, *
and I will keep your commandments.
- 135 Let your countenance shine upon your servant *
and teach me your statutes.
- 136 My eyes shed streams of tears, *
because people do not keep your law.

Sadhe *Justus es, Domine*

- 137 You are righteous, O Lord, *
and upright are your judgments.
- 138 You have issued your decrees *
with justice and in perfect faithfulness.
- 139 My indignation has consumed me, *
because my enemies forget your words.
- 140 Your word has been tested to the uttermost, *
and your servant holds it dear.
- 141 I am small and of little account, *
yet I do not forget your commandments.
- 142 Your justice is an everlasting justice *
and your law is the truth.
- 143 Trouble and distress have come upon me, *
yet your commandments are my delight.
- 144 The righteousness of your decrees is everlasting; *
grant me understanding, that I may live.

Thursday, March 26

Psalm 73 *Quam bonus Israel!*

- 1 Truly, God is good to Israel, *
to those who are pure in heart.
- 2 But as for me, my feet had nearly slipped; *
I had almost tripped and fallen;
- 3 Because I envied the proud *
and saw the prosperity of the wicked:
- 4 For they suffer no pain, *
and their bodies are sleek and sound;
- 5 In the misfortunes of others they have no share; *
they are not afflicted as others are;
- 6 Therefore they wear their pride like a necklace *
and wrap their violence about them like a cloak.
- 7 Their iniquity comes from gross minds, *
and their hearts overflow with wicked thoughts.
- 8 They scoff and speak maliciously; *
out of their haughtiness they plan oppression.
- 9 They set their mouths against the heavens, *
and their evil speech runs through the world.
- 10 And so the people turn to them *

and find in them no fault.
11 They say, "How should God know? *
is there knowledge in the Most High?"
12 So then, these are the wicked; *
always at ease, they increase their wealth.
13 In vain have I kept my heart clean, *
and washed my hands in innocence.
14 I have been afflicted all day long, *
and punished every morning.
15 Had I gone on speaking this way, *
I should have betrayed the generation of your children.
16 When I tried to understand these things, *
it was too hard for me;
17 Until I entered the sanctuary of God *
and discerned the end of the wicked.
18 Surely, you set them in slippery places; *
you cast them down in ruin.
19 Oh, how suddenly do they come to destruction, *
come to an end, and perish from terror!
20 Like a dream when one awakens, O Lord, *
when you arise you will make their image vanish.
21 When my mind became embittered, *
I was sorely wounded in my heart.
22 I was stupid and had no understanding; *
I was like a brute beast in your presence.
23 Yet I am always with you; *
you hold me by my right hand.
24 You will guide me by your counsel, *
and afterwards receive me with glory.
25 Whom have I in heaven but you? *
and having you I desire nothing upon earth.
26 Though my flesh and my heart should waste away, *
God is the strength of my heart and my portion for ever.
27 Truly, those who forsake you will perish; *
you destroy all who are unfaithful.
28 But it is good for me to be near God; *
I have made the Lord God my refuge.
29 I will speak of all your works *
in the gates of the city of Zion.

Friday, March 27

Psalm 107.1-32 *Confitemini Domino*

- 1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, *
and his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim *
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.
- 3 He gathered them out of the lands; *
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.
- 4 Some wandered in desert wastes; *
they found no way to a city where they might dwell.
- 5 They were hungry and thirsty; *
their spirits languished within them.
- 6 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, *
and he delivered them from their distress.
- 7 He put their feet on a straight path *
to go to a city where they might dwell.
- 8 Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy *
and the wonders he does for his children.
- 9 For he satisfies the thirsty *
and fills the hungry with good things.
- 10 Some sat in darkness and deep gloom, *
bound fast in misery and iron;
- 11 Because they rebelled against the words of God *
and despised the counsel of the Most High.
- 12 So he humbled their spirits with hard labor; *
they stumbled, and there was none to help.
- 13 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, *
and he delivered them from their distress.
- 14 He led them out of darkness and deep gloom *
and broke their bonds asunder.
- 15 Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy *
and the wonders he does for his children.
- 16 For he shatters the doors of bronze *
and breaks in two the iron bars.
- 17 Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; *
they were afflicted because of their sins.
- 18 They abhorred all manner of food *
and drew near to death's door.
- 19 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, *

and he delivered them from their distress.
20 He sent forth his word and healed them *
and saved them from the grave.
21 Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy *
and the wonders he does for his children.
22 Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.
23 Some went down to the sea in ships *
and plied their trade in deep waters;
24 They beheld the works of the Lord *
and his wonders in the deep.
25 Then he spoke, and a stormy wind arose, *
which tossed high the waves of the sea.
26 They mounted up to the heavens and fell back to the depths; *
their hearts melted because of their peril.
27 They reeled and staggered like drunkards *
and were at their wits' end.
28 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.
29 He stilled the storm to a whisper *
and quieted the waves of the sea.
30 Then were they glad because of the calm, *
and he brought them to the harbor they were bound for.
31 Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy *
and the wonders he does for his children.
32 Let them exalt him in the congregation of the people *
and praise him in the council of the elders.