

# **Psalms for Evening Prayer**

## **May 16 to May 20**

### **Monday, May 16**

#### **64** *Exaudi, Deus*

1 Hear my voice, O God, when I complain; \*  
protect my life from fear of the enemy.

2 Hide me from the conspiracy of the wicked, \*  
from the mob of evildoers.

3 They sharpen their tongue like a sword, \*  
and aim their bitter words like arrows,

4 That they may shoot down the blameless from ambush; \*  
they shoot without warning and are not afraid.

5 They hold fast to their evil course; \*  
they plan how they may hide their snares.

6 They say, "Who will see us?  
who will find out our crimes? \*  
we have thought out a perfect plot."

7 The human mind and heart are a mystery; \*  
but God will loose an arrow at them,  
and suddenly they will be wounded.

8 He will make them trip over their tongues, \*  
and all who see them will shake their heads.

9 Everyone will stand in awe and declare God's deeds; \*  
they will recognize his works.

10 The righteous will rejoice in the Lord and put their trust in him, \*  
and all who are true of heart will glory.

## 65 *Te decet hymnus*

1 You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; \*  
to you shall vows be performed in Jerusalem.

2 To you that hear prayer shall all flesh come, \*  
because of their transgressions.

3 Our sins are stronger than we are, \*  
but you will blot them out.

4 Happy are they whom you choose  
and draw to your courts to dwell there! \*  
they will be satisfied by the beauty of your house,  
by the holiness of your temple.

5 Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness,  
O God of our salvation, \*  
O Hope of all the ends of the earth  
and of the seas that are far away.

6 You make fast the mountains by your power; \*  
they are girded about with might.

7 You still the roaring of the seas, \*  
the roaring of their waves,  
and the clamor of the peoples.

8 Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your  
marvelous signs; \*  
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.

9 You visit the earth and water it abundantly;  
you make it very plenteous; \*  
the river of God is full of water.

10 You prepare the grain, \*  
for so you provide for the earth.

11 You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; \*  
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.

12 You crown the year with your goodness, \*  
and your paths overflow with plenty.

13 May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, \*  
and the hills be clothed with joy.

14 May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,  
and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; \*  
let them shout for joy and sing.

## **Tuesday, May 17**

### **68** *Exsurgat Deus*

1 Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered; \*  
let those who hate him flee before him.

2 Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away; \*  
as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.

3 But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; \*  
let them also be merry and joyful.

4 Sing to God, sing praises to his Name;  
exalt him who rides upon the heavens; \*  
Yahweh is his Name, rejoice before him!

5 Father of orphans, defender of widows, \*  
God in his holy habitation!

6 God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into freedom; \*  
but the rebels shall live in dry places.

7 O God, when you went forth before your people, \*  
when you marched through the wilderness,

8 The earth shook, and the skies poured down rain,  
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, \*  
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

9 You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance; \*  
you refreshed the land when it was weary.

10 Your people found their home in it; \*  
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.

11 The Lord gave the word; \*  
great was the company of women who bore the tidings:

12 "Kings with their armies are fleeing away; \*  
the women at home are dividing the spoils."

13 Though you lingered among the sheepfolds, \*  
you shall be like a dove whose wings are covered with silver,  
whose feathers are like green gold.

14 When the Almighty scattered kings, \*  
it was like snow falling in Zalmon.

15 O mighty mountain, O hill of Bashan! \*  
O rugged mountain, O hill of Bashan!

16 Why do you look with envy, O rugged mountain,  
at the hill which God chose for his resting place? \*  
truly, the Lord will dwell there for ever.

17 The chariots of God are twenty thousand,  
even thousands of thousands; \*  
the Lord comes in holiness from Sinai.

18 You have gone up on high and led captivity captive;  
you have received gifts even from your enemies, \*  
that the Lord God might dwell among them.

19 Blessed be the Lord day by day, \*  
the God of our salvation, who bears our burdens.

20 He is our God, the God of our salvation; \*  
God is the Lord, by whom we escape death.

21 God shall crush the heads of his enemies, \*  
and the hairy scalp of those who go on still in their wickedness.

22 The Lord has said, "I will bring them back from Bashan; \*  
I will bring them back from the depths of the sea;

23 That your foot may be dipped in blood, \*  
the tongues of your dogs in the blood of your enemies."

24 They see your procession, O God, \*  
your procession into the sanctuary, my God and my King.

25 The singers go before, musicians follow after, \*  
in the midst of maidens playing upon the hand-drums.

26 Bless God in the congregation; \*  
bless the Lord, you that are of the fountain of Israel.

27 There is Benjamin, least of the tribes, at the head;  
the princes of Judah in a company; \*  
and the princes of Zebulon and Naphtali.

28 Send forth your strength, O God; \*  
establish, O God, what you have wrought for us.

29 Kings shall bring gifts to you, \*  
for your temple's sake at Jerusalem.

30 Rebuke the wild beast of the reeds, \*  
and the peoples, a herd of wild bulls with its calves.

31 Trample down those who lust after silver; \*  
scatter the peoples that delight in war.

32 Let tribute be brought out of Egypt; \*  
let Ethiopia stretch out her hands to God.

33 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; \*  
sing praises to the Lord.

34 He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; \*  
he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.

35 Ascribe power to God; \*  
his majesty is over Israel;  
his strength is in the skies.

36 How wonderful is God in his holy places! \*  
the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people!  
Blessed be God!

## **Wednesday, May 18**

### **119**

*Yodh Manus tuæ fecerunt me*

73 Your hands have made me and fashioned me; \*  
give me understanding, that I may learn your commandments.

74 Those who fear you will be glad when they see me, \*  
because I trust in your word.

75 I know, O Lord, that your judgments are right \*  
and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me.

76 Let your loving-kindness be my comfort, \*  
as you have promised to your servant.

77 Let your compassion come to me, that I may live, \*  
for your law is my delight.

78 Let the arrogant be put to shame, for they wrong me with lies; \*  
but I will meditate on your commandments.

79 Let those who fear you turn to me, \*  
and also those who know your decrees.

80 Let my heart be sound in your statutes, \*  
that I may not be put to shame.

**Kaph** *Defecit in salutare*

81 My soul has longed for your salvation; \*  
I have put my hope in your word.

82 My eyes have failed from watching for your promise, \*  
and I say, "When will you comfort me?"

83 I have become like a leather flask in the smoke, \*  
but I have not forgotten your statutes.

84 How much longer must I wait? \*  
when will you give judgment against those who persecute me?

85 The proud have dug pits for me; \*  
they do not keep your law.

86 All your commandments are true; \*  
help me, for they persecute me with lies.

87 They had almost made an end of me on earth, \*  
but I have not forsaken your commandments.

88 In your loving-kindness, revive me, \*  
that I may keep the decrees of your mouth.

**Lamedh** *In Æternum, Domine*

89 O Lord, your word is everlasting; \*  
it stands firm in the heavens.

90 Your faithfulness remains from one generation to another; \*  
you established the earth, and it abides.

91 By your decree these continue to this day, \*  
for all things are your servants.

92 If my delight had not been in your law, \*  
I should have perished in my affliction.

93 I will never forget your commandments, \*  
because by them you give me life.

94 I am yours; oh, that you would save me! \*  
for I study your commandments.

95 Though the wicked lie in wait for me to destroy me, \*  
I will apply my mind to your decrees.

96 I see that all things come to an end, \*  
but your commandment has no bounds.

## Thursday, May 19

### **74** *Ut quid, Deus?*

1 O God, why have you utterly cast us off? \*  
why is your wrath so hot against the sheep of your pasture?

2 Remember your congregation that you purchased long ago, \*  
the tribe you redeemed to be your inheritance,  
and Mount Zion where you dwell.

3 Turn your steps toward the endless ruins; \*  
the enemy has laid waste everything in your sanctuary.

4 Your adversaries roared in your holy place; \*  
they set up their banners as tokens of victory.

5 They were like men coming up with axes to a grove of trees; \*  
they broke down all your carved work with hatchets and hammers.

6 They set fire to your holy place; \*  
they defiled the dwelling-place of your Name  
and razed it to the ground.

7 They said to themselves, "Let us destroy them altogether." \*  
They burned down all the meeting-places of God in the land.

8 There are no signs for us to see;  
there is no prophet left; \*  
there is not one among us who knows how long.

9 How long, O God, will the adversary scoff? \*  
will the enemy blaspheme your Name for ever?

10 Why do you draw back your hand? \*  
why is your right hand hidden in your bosom?

11 Yet God is my King from ancient times, \*  
victorious in the midst of the earth.

12 You divided the sea by your might \*  
and shattered the heads of the dragons upon the waters;

13 You crushed the heads of Leviathan \*  
and gave him to the people of the desert for food.

14 You split open spring and torrent; \*  
you dried up ever-flowing rivers.

15 Yours is the day, yours also the night; \*  
you established the moon and the sun.

16 You fixed all the boundaries of the earth; \*  
you made both summer and winter.

17 Remember, O Lord, how the enemy scoffed, \*  
how a foolish people despised your Name.

18 Do not hand over the life of your dove to wild beasts; \*  
never forget the lives of your poor.

19 Look upon your covenant; \*  
the dark places of the earth are haunts of violence.

20 Let not the oppressed turn away ashamed; \*  
let the poor and needy praise your Name.

21 Arise, O God, maintain your cause; \*  
remember how fools revile you all day long.

22 Forget not the clamor of your adversaries, \*  
the unending tumult of those who rise up against you.

## Friday, May 20

### 106

#### Part II *Et fecerunt vitulum*

19 Israel made a bull-calf at Horeb \*  
and worshiped a molten image;

20 And so they exchanged their Glory \*  
for the image of an ox that feeds on grass.

21 They forgot God their Savior, \*  
who had done great things in Egypt,

22 Wonderful deeds in the land of Ham, \*  
and fearful things at the Red Sea.

23 So he would have destroyed them,  
had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, \*  
to turn away his wrath from consuming them.

24 They refused the pleasant land \*  
and would not believe his promise.

25 They grumbled in their tents \*  
and would not listen to the voice of the Lord.

26 So he lifted his hand against them, \*  
to overthrow them in the wilderness,

27 To cast out their seed among the nations, \*  
and to scatter them throughout the lands.

28 They joined themselves to Baal-Peor \*  
and ate sacrifices offered to the dead.

29 They provoked him to anger with their actions, \*  
and a plague broke out among them.

30 Then Phinehas stood up and interceded, \*  
and the plague came to an end.

31 This was reckoned to him as righteousness \*  
throughout all generations for ever.

32 Again they provoked his anger at the waters of Meribah, \*  
so that he punished Moses because of them;

33 For they so embittered his spirit \*  
that he spoke rash words with his lips.

34 They did not destroy the peoples \*  
as the Lord had commanded them.

35 They intermingled with the heathen \*  
and learned their pagan ways,

36 So that they worshiped their idols, \*  
which became a snare to them.

37 They sacrificed their sons \*  
and their daughters to evil spirits.

38 They shed innocent blood,  
the blood of their sons and daughters, \*  
which they offered to the idols of Canaan,  
and the land was defiled with blood.

39 Thus they were polluted by their actions \*  
and went whoring in their evil deeds.

40 Therefore the wrath of the Lord was kindled against his people \*  
and he abhorred his inheritance.

41 He gave them over to the hand of the heathen, \*  
and those who hated them ruled over them.

42 Their enemies oppressed them, \*  
and they were humbled under their hand.

43 Many a time did he deliver them,  
but they rebelled through their own devices, \*  
and were brought down in their iniquity.

44 Nevertheless, he saw their distress, \*  
when he heard their lamentation.

45 He remembered his covenant with them \*  
and relented in accordance with his great mercy.

46 He caused them to be pitied \*  
by those who held them captive.

47 Save us, O Lord our God,  
and gather us from among the nations, \*  
that we may give thanks to your holy Name  
and glory in your praise.

48 Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
from everlasting and to everlasting; \*  
and let all the people say, "Amen!"  
Hallelujah!