

# **Psalms for Evening Prayer**

## **December 15 to December 19**

### **Monday, December 15**

#### **44** *Deus, auribus*

1 We have heard with our ears, O God,  
our forefathers have told us, \*  
the deeds you did in their days,  
in the days of old.

2 How with your hand you drove the peoples out  
and planted our forefathers in the land; \*  
how you destroyed nations and made your people flourish.

3 For they did not take the land by their sword,  
nor did their arm win the victory for them; \*  
but your right hand, your arm, and the light of your countenance,  
because you favored them.

4 You are my King and my God; \*  
you command victories for Jacob.

5 Through you we pushed back our adversaries; \*  
through your Name we trampled on those who rose up against us.

6 For I do not rely on my bow, \*  
and my sword does not give me the victory.

7 Surely, you gave us victory over our adversaries \*  
and put those who hate us to shame.

8 Every day we gloried in God, \*  
and we will praise your Name for ever.

9 Nevertheless, you have rejected and humbled us \*  
and do not go forth with our armies.

10 You have made us fall back before our adversary, \*  
and our enemies have plundered us.

11 You have made us like sheep to be eaten \*  
and have scattered us among the nations.

12 You are selling your people for a trifle \*  
and are making no profit on the sale of them.

13 You have made us the scorn of our neighbors, \*  
a mockery and derision to those around us.

14 You have made us a byword among the nations, \*  
a laughing-stock among the peoples.

15 My humiliation is daily before me, \*  
and shame has covered my face;

16 Because of the taunts of the mockers and blasphemers, \*  
because of the enemy and avenger.

17 All this has come upon us; \*  
yet we have not forgotten you,  
nor have we betrayed your covenant.

18 Our heart never turned back, \*  
nor did our footsteps stray from your path;

19 Though you thrust us down into a place of misery, \*  
and covered us over with deep darkness.

20 If we have forgotten the Name of our God, \*  
or stretched out our hands to some strange god,

21 Will not God find it out? \*  
for he knows the secrets of the heart.

22 Indeed, for your sake we are killed all the day long; \*  
we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

23 Awake, O Lord! why are you sleeping? \*  
Arise! do not reject us for ever.

24 Why have you hidden your face \*  
and forgotten our affliction and oppression?

25 We sink down into the dust; \*  
our body cleaves to the ground.

26 Rise up, and help us, \*  
and save us, for the sake of your steadfast love.

## **Tuesday, December 16**

### **47** *Omnes gentes, plaudite*

1 Clap your hands, all you peoples; \*  
shout to God with a cry of joy.

2 For the Lord Most High is to be feared; \*  
he is the great King over all the earth.

3 He subdues the peoples under us, \*  
and the nations under our feet.

4 He chooses our inheritance for us, \*  
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.

5 God has gone up with a shout, \*  
the Lord with the sound of the ram's-horn.

6 Sing praises to God, sing praises; \*  
sing praises to our King, sing praises.

7 For God is King of all the earth; \*  
sing praises with all your skill.

8 God reigns over the nations; \*  
God sits upon his holy throne.

9 The nobles of the peoples have gathered together \*  
with the people of the God of Abraham.

10 The rulers of the earth belong to God, \*  
and he is highly exalted.

## **48** *Magnus Dominus*

1 Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised; \*  
in the city of our God is his holy hill.

2 Beautiful and lofty, the joy of all the earth, is the  
hill of Zion, \*  
the very center of the world and the city of the great King.

3 God is in her citadels; \*  
he is known to be her sure refuge.

4 Behold, the kings of the earth assembled \*  
and marched forward together.

5 They looked and were astounded; \*  
they retreated and fled in terror.

6 Trembling seized them there; \*  
they writhed like a woman in childbirth,  
like ships of the sea when the east wind shatters them.

7 As we have heard, so have we seen,  
in the city of the Lord of hosts, in the city of our God; \*  
God has established her for ever.

8 We have waited in silence on your loving-kindness, O God, \*  
in the midst of your temple.

9 Your praise, like your Name, O God, reaches to  
the world's end; \*  
your right hand is full of justice.

10 Let Mount Zion be glad and the cities of Judah rejoice, \*  
because of your judgments.

11 Make the circuit of Zion;  
walk round about her; \*  
count the number of her towers.

12 Consider well her bulwarks;  
examine her strongholds; \*  
that you may tell those who come after.

13 This God is our God for ever and ever; \*  
he shall be our guide for evermore.

## **Wednesday, December 17**

### **49** *Audite hæc, omnes*

1 Hear this, all you peoples;  
hearken, all you who dwell in the world, \*  
you of high degree and low, rich and poor together.

2 My mouth shall speak of wisdom, \*  
and my heart shall meditate on understanding.

3 I will incline my ear to a proverb \*  
and set forth my riddle upon the harp.

4 Why should I be afraid in evil days, \*  
when the wickedness of those at my heels surrounds me,

5 The wickedness of those who put their trust in their goods, \*  
and boast of their great riches?

6 We can never ransom ourselves, \*  
or deliver to God the price of our life;

7 For the ransom of our life is so great, \*  
that we should never have enough to pay it,

8 In order to live for ever and ever, \*  
and never see the grave.

9 For we see that the wise die also;  
like the dull and stupid they perish \*  
and leave their wealth to those who come after them.

10 Their graves shall be their homes for ever,  
their dwelling places from generation to generation, \*  
though they call the lands after their own names.

11 Even though honored, they cannot live for ever; \*  
they are like the beasts that perish.

12 Such is the way of those who foolishly trust in themselves, \*  
and the end of those who delight in their own words.

13 Like a flock of sheep they are destined to die;  
Death is their shepherd; \*  
they go down straightway to the grave.

14 Their form shall waste away, \*  
and the land of the dead shall be their home.

15 But God will ransom my life; \*  
he will snatch me from the grasp of death.

16 Do not be envious when some become rich, \*  
or when the grandeur of their house increases;

17 For they will carry nothing away at their death, \*  
nor will their grandeur follow them.

18 Though they thought highly of themselves while they lived, \*  
and were praised for their success,

19 They shall join the company of their forebears, \*  
who will never see the light again.

20 Those who are honored, but have no understanding, \*  
are like the beasts that perish.

### **53** *Dixit insipiens*

(1 The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." \*  
All are corrupt and commit abominable acts;  
there is none who does any good.

2 God looks down from heaven upon us all, \*  
to see if there is any who is wise,  
if there is one who seeks after God.

3 Every one has proved faithless;  
all alike have turned bad; \*  
there is none who does good; no, not one.

4 Have they no knowledge, those evildoers \*  
who eat up my people like bread and do not call upon God?

5 See how greatly they tremble,  
such trembling as never was; \*  
for God has scattered the bones of the enemy;  
they are put to shame, because God has rejected them.

6 Oh, that Israel's deliverance would come out of Zion! \*  
when God restores the fortunes of his people  
Jacob will rejoice and Israel be glad.)

## **Thursday, December 18**

### **33** *Exultate, justi*

1 Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous; \*  
it is good for the just to sing praises.

2 Praise the Lord with the harp; \*  
play to him upon the psaltery and lyre.

3 Sing for him a new song; \*  
sound a fanfare with all your skill upon the trumpet.

4 For the word of the Lord is right, \*  
and all his works are sure.

5 He loves righteousness and justice; \*  
the loving-kindness of the Lord fills the whole earth.

6 By the word of the Lord were the heavens made, \*  
by the breath of his mouth all the heavenly hosts.

7 He gathers up the waters of the ocean as in a water-skin \*  
and stores up the depths of the sea.

8 Let all the earth fear the Lord; \*  
let all who dwell in the world stand in awe of him.

9 For he spoke, and it came to pass; \*  
he commanded, and it stood fast.

10 The Lord brings the will of the nations to naught; \*  
he thwarts the designs of the peoples.

11 But the Lord's will stands fast for ever, \*  
and the designs of his heart from age to age.

12 Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord! \*  
happy the people he has chosen to be his own!

13 The Lord looks down from heaven, \*  
and beholds all the people in the world.

14 From where he sits enthroned he turns his gaze \*  
on all who dwell on the earth.

15 He fashions all the hearts of them \*  
and understands all their works.

16 There is no king that can be saved by a mighty army; \*  
a strong man is not delivered by his great strength.

17 The horse is a vain hope for deliverance; \*  
for all its strength it cannot save.



18 Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon those who fear him, \*  
on those who wait upon his love,

19 To pluck their lives from death, \*  
and to feed them in time of famine.

20 Our soul waits for the Lord; \*  
he is our help and our shield.

21 Indeed, our heart rejoices in him, \*  
for in his holy Name we put our trust.

22 Let your loving-kindness, O Lord, be upon us, \*  
as we have put our trust in you.

## **Friday, December 19**

### **51** *Miserere mei, Deus*

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; \*  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness \*  
and cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I know my transgressions, \*  
and my sin is ever before me.

4 Against you only have I sinned \*  
and done what is evil in your sight.

5 And so you are justified when you speak \*  
and upright in your judgment.

6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, \*  
a sinner from my mother's womb.

7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me, \*  
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; \*  
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, \*  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

10 Hide your face from my sins \*  
and blot out all my iniquities.

11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, \*  
and renew a right spirit within me.

12 Cast me not away from your presence \*  
and take not your holy Spirit from me.

13 Give me the joy of your saving help again \*  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

14 I shall teach your ways to the wicked, \*  
and sinners shall return to you.

15 Deliver me from death, O God, \*  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,  
O God of my salvation.

16 Open my lips, O Lord, \*  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

17 Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, \*  
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

18 The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; \*  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

19 Be favorable and gracious to Zion, \*  
and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

20 Then you will be pleased with the appointed sacrifices,  
with burnt-offerings and oblations; \*  
then shall they offer young bullocks upon your altar.