

# **Psalms for Evening Prayer**

## **December 8 to December 12**

### **Monday, December 8**

#### **9** *Confitebor tibi*

1 I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; \*  
I will tell of all your marvelous works.

2 I will be glad and rejoice in you; \*  
I will sing to your Name, O Most High.

3 When my enemies are driven back, \*  
they will stumble and perish at your presence.

4 For you have maintained my right and my cause; \*  
you sit upon your throne judging right.

5 You have rebuked the ungodly and destroyed the wicked; \*  
you have blotted out their name for ever and ever.

6 As for the enemy, they are finished, in perpetual ruin, \*  
their cities ploughed under, the memory of them perished;

7 But the Lord is enthroned for ever; \*  
he has set up his throne for judgment.

8 It is he who rules the world with righteousness; \*  
he judges the peoples with equity.

9 The Lord will be a refuge for the oppressed, \*  
a refuge in time of trouble.

10 Those who know your Name will put their trust in you, \*  
for you never forsake those who seek you, O Lord.

11 Sing praise to the Lord who dwells in Zion; \*  
proclaim to the peoples the things he has done.

12 The Avenger of blood will remember them; \*  
he will not forget the cry of the afflicted.

13 Have pity on me, O Lord; \*  
see the misery I suffer from those who hate me,  
O you who lift me up from the gate of death;

14 So that I may tell of all your praises  
and rejoice in your salvation \*  
in the gates of the city of Zion.

15 The ungodly have fallen into the pit they dug, \*  
and in the snare they set is their own foot caught.

16 The Lord is known by his acts of justice; \*  
the wicked are trapped in the works of their own hands.

17 The wicked shall be given over to the grave, \*  
and also all the people that forget God.

18 For the needy shall not always be forgotten, \*  
and the hope of the poor shall not perish for ever.

19 Rise up, O Lord, let not the ungodly have the upper hand; \*  
let them be judged before you.

20 Put fear upon them, O Lord; \*  
let the ungodly know they are but mortal.

## **15** *Domine, quis habitabit?*

1 Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? \*  
who may abide upon your holy hill?

2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, \*  
who speaks the truth from his heart.

3 There is no guile upon his tongue;  
he does no evil to his friend; \*  
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.

4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, \*  
but he honors those who fear the Lord.

5 He has sworn to do no wrong \*  
and does not take back his word.

6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, \*  
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.

7 Whoever does these things \*  
shall never be overthrown.

## **Tuesday, December 9**

### **36** *Dixit injustus*

1 There is a voice of rebellion deep in the heart of the wicked; \*  
there is no fear of God before his eyes.

2 He flatters himself in his own eyes \*  
that his hateful sin will not be found out.

3 The words of his mouth are wicked and deceitful; \*  
he has left off acting wisely and doing good.

4 He thinks up wickedness upon his bed  
and has set himself in no good way; \*  
he does not abhor that which is evil.

5 Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, \*  
and your faithfulness to the clouds.

6 Your righteousness is like the strong mountains,  
your justice like the great deep; \*  
you save both man and beast, O Lord.

7 How priceless is your love, O God! \*  
your people take refuge under the  
shadow of your wings.

8 They feast upon the abundance of your house; \*  
you give them drink from the river of your delights.

9 For with you is the well of life, \*  
and in your light we see light.

10 Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you, \*  
and your favor to those who are true of heart.

11 Let not the foot of the proud come near me, \*  
nor the hand of the wicked push me aside.

12 See how they are fallen, those who work wickedness! \*  
they are cast down and shall not be able to rise.

### **39** *Dixi, Custodiam*

1 I said, "I will keep watch upon my ways, \*  
so that I do not offend with my tongue.

2 I will put a muzzle on my mouth \*  
while the wicked are in my presence."

3 So I held my tongue and said nothing; \*  
I refrained from rash words;  
but my pain became unbearable.

4 My heart was hot within me;  
while I pondered, the fire burst into flame; \*  
I spoke out with my tongue:

5 Lord, let me know my end and the number of my days, \*  
so that I may know how short my life is.

6 You have given me a mere handful of days,  
and my lifetime is as nothing in your sight; \*  
truly, even those who stand erect are but a puff of wind.

7 We walk about like a shadow,  
and in vain we are in turmoil; \*  
we heap up riches and cannot tell who will gather them.

8 And now, what is my hope? \*  
O Lord, my hope is in you.

9 Deliver me from all my transgressions \*  
and do not make me the taunt of the fool.

10 I fell silent and did not open my mouth, \*  
for surely it was you that did it.

11 Take your affliction from me; \*  
I am worn down by the blows of your hand.

12 With rebukes for sin you punish us;  
like a moth you eat away all that is dear to us; \*  
truly, everyone is but a puff of wind.

13 Hear my prayer, O Lord,  
and give ear to my cry; \*  
hold not your peace at my tears.

14 For I am but a sojourner with you, \*  
a wayfarer, as all my forebears were.

15 Turn your gaze from me, that I may be glad again, \*  
before I go my way and am no more.

## Wednesday, December 10

### 119

**Daleth** *Adhæsit pavimento*

25 My soul cleaves to the dust; \*  
give me life according to your word.

26 I have confessed my ways, and you answered me; \*  
instruct me in your statutes.

27 Make me understand the way of your commandments, \*  
that I may meditate on your marvelous works.

28 My soul melts away for sorrow; \*  
strengthen me according to your word.

29 Take from me the way of lying; \*  
let me find grace through your law.

30 I have chosen the way of faithfulness; \*  
I have set your judgments before me.

31 I hold fast to your decrees; \*  
O Lord, let me not be put to shame.

32 I will run the way of your commandments, \*  
for you have set my heart at liberty.

**He** *Legem pone*

33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, \*  
and I shall keep it to the end.

34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; \*  
I shall keep it with all my heart.

35 Make me go in the path of your commandments, \*  
for that is my desire.

36 Incline my heart to your decrees \*  
and not to unjust gain.

37 Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; \*  
give me life in your ways.

38 Fulfill your promise to your servant, \*  
which you make to those who fear you.

39 Turn away the reproach which I dread, \*  
because your judgments are good.

40 Behold, I long for your commandments; \*  
in your righteousness preserve my life.

**Waw** *Et veniat super me*

41 Let your loving-kindness come to me, O Lord, \*  
and your salvation, according to your promise.

42 Then shall I have a word for those who taunt me, \*  
because I trust in your words.

43 Do not take the word of truth out of my mouth, \*  
for my hope is in your judgments.

44 I shall continue to keep your law; \*  
I shall keep it for ever and ever.

45 I will walk at liberty, \*  
because I study your commandments.

46 I will tell of your decrees before kings \*  
and will not be ashamed.

47 I delight in your commandments, \*  
which I have always loved.

48 I will lift up my hands to your commandments, \*  
and I will meditate on your statutes.

## Thursday, December 11

### 37

#### Part II *Novit Dominus*

19 The Lord cares for the lives of the godly, \*  
and their inheritance shall last for ever.

20 They shall not be ashamed in bad times, \*  
and in days of famine they shall have enough.

21 As for the wicked, they shall perish, \*  
and the enemies of the Lord, like the glory of  
the meadows, shall vanish;  
they shall vanish like smoke.

22 The wicked borrow and do not repay, \*  
but the righteous are generous in giving.

23 Those who are blessed by God shall possess the land, \*  
but those who are cursed by him shall be destroyed.

24 Our steps are directed by the Lord; \*  
he strengthens those in whose way he delights.

25 If they stumble, they shall not fall headlong, \*  
for the Lord holds them by the hand.

26 I have been young and now I am old, \*  
but never have I seen the righteous forsaken,  
or their children begging bread.

27 The righteous are always generous in their lending, \*  
and their children shall be a blessing.

28 Turn from evil, and do good, \*  
and dwell in the land for ever.

29 For the Lord loves justice; \*  
he does not forsake his faithful ones.



30 They shall be kept safe for ever, \*  
but the offspring of the wicked shall be destroyed.

31 The righteous shall possess the land \*  
and dwell in it for ever.

32 The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, \*  
and their tongue speaks what is right.

33 The law of their God is in their heart, \*  
and their footsteps shall not falter.

34 The wicked spy on the righteous \*  
and seek occasion to kill them.

35 The Lord will not abandon them to their hand, \*  
nor let them be found guilty when brought to trial.

36 Wait upon the Lord and keep his way; \*  
he will raise you up to possess the land,  
and when the wicked are cut off, you will see it.

37 I have seen the wicked in their arrogance, \*  
flourishing like a tree in full leaf.

38 I went by, and behold, they were not there; \*  
I searched for them, but they could not be found.

39 Mark those who are honest;  
observe the upright; \*  
for there is a future for the peaceable.

40 Transgressors shall be destroyed, one and all; \*  
the future of the wicked is cut off.

41 But the deliverance of the righteous comes from the Lord; \*  
he is their stronghold in time of trouble.

42 The Lord will help them and rescue them; \*  
he will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them,  
because they seek refuge in him.

## Friday, December 12

### **35** *Judica, Domine*

1 Fight those who fight me, O Lord; \*  
attack those who are attacking me.

2 Take up shield and armor \*  
and rise up to help me.

3 Draw the sword and bar the way against those who pursue me; \*  
say to my soul, "I am your salvation."

4 Let those who seek after my life be shamed and humbled; \*  
let those who plot my ruin fall back and be dismayed.

5 Let them be like chaff before the wind, \*  
and let the angel of the Lord drive them away.

6 Let their way be dark and slippery, \*  
and let the angel of the Lord pursue them.

7 For they have secretly spread a net for me without a cause; \*  
without a cause they have dug a pit to take me alive.

8 Let ruin come upon them unawares; \*  
let them be caught in the net they hid;  
let them fall into the pit they dug.

9 Then I will be joyful in the Lord; \*  
I will glory in his victory.

10 My very bones will say, "Lord, who is like you? \*  
You deliver the poor from those who are too strong for them,  
the poor and needy from those who rob them."

11 Malicious witnesses rise up against me; \*  
they charge me with matters I know nothing about.

12 They pay me evil in exchange for good; \*  
my soul is full of despair.

13 But when they were sick I dressed in sack-cloth \*  
and humbled myself by fasting;

14 I prayed with my whole heart,  
as one would for a friend or a brother; \*  
I behaved like one who mourns for his mother,  
bowed down and grieving.

15 But when I stumbled, they were glad and gathered together;  
they gathered against me; \*  
strangers whom I did not know tore me to pieces and would not stop.

16 They put me to the test and mocked me; \*  
they gnashed at me with their teeth.

17 O Lord, how long will you look on? \*  
rescue me from the roaring beasts,  
and my life from the young lions.

18 I will give you thanks in the great congregation; \*  
I will praise you in the mighty throng.

19 Do not let my treacherous foes rejoice over me, \*  
nor let those who hate me without a cause wink at each other.

20 For they do not plan for peace, \*  
but invent deceitful schemes against the  
quiet in the land.

21 They opened their mouths at me and said, \*  
"Aha! we saw it with our own eyes."

22 You saw it, O Lord; do not be silent; \*  
O Lord, be not far from me.

23 Awake, arise, to my cause! \*  
to my defense, my God and my Lord!

24 Give me justice, O Lord my God,  
according to your righteousness; \*  
do not let them triumph over me.

25 Do not let them say in their hearts,  
"Aha! just what we want!" \*  
Do not let them say, "We have swallowed him up."

26 Let all who rejoice at my ruin be ashamed and disgraced; \*  
let those who boast against me be clothed with dismay and shame.

27 Let those who favor my cause sing out with joy and be glad; \*  
let them say always, "Great is the Lord,  
who desires the prosperity of his servant."

28 And my tongue shall be talking of your righteousness \*  
and of your praise all the day long.