

Psalms for Evening Prayer

March 23 to March 27

Monday, March 23

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.

Tuesday, March 24 – Eve of the Annunciation

8 *Domine, Dominus noster*

1 O Lord our Governor, *
how exalted is your Name in all the world!

2 Out of the mouths of infants and children *
your majesty is praised above the heavens.

3 You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries, *
to quell the enemy and the avenger.

4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, *
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

5 What is man that you should be mindful of him? *
the son of man that you should seek him out?

6 You have made him but little lower than the angels; *
you adorn him with glory and honor;

7 You give him mastery over the works of your hands; *
you put all things under his feet:

8 All sheep and oxen, *
even the wild beasts of the field,

9 The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, *
and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.

10 O Lord our Governor, *
how exalted is your Name in all the world!

138 *Confitebor tibi*

1 I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; *
before the gods I will sing your praise.

2 I will bow down toward your holy temple
and praise your Name, *
because of your love and faithfulness;

3 For you have glorified your Name *
and your word above all things.

4 When I called, you answered me; *
you increased my strength within me.

5 All the kings of the earth will praise you, O Lord, *
when they have heard the words of your mouth.

6 They will sing of the ways of the Lord, *
that great is the glory of the Lord.

7 Though the Lord be high, he cares for the lowly; *
he perceives the haughty from afar.

8 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; *
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right hand shall save me.

9 The Lord will make good his purpose for me; *
O Lord, your love endures for ever;
do not abandon the works of your hands.

Wednesday, March 25 – The Annunciation

110 *Dixit Dominus*

1 The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, *
until I make your enemies your footstool."

2 The Lord will send the scepter of your power out of Zion, *
saying, "Rule over your enemies round about you.

3 Princely state has been yours from the day of your birth; *
in the beauty of holiness have I begotten you,
like dew from the womb of the morning."

4 The Lord has sworn and he will not recant: *
"You are a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek."

5 The Lord who is at your right hand
will smite kings in the day of his wrath; *
he will rule over the nations.

(6 He will heap high the corpses; *
he will smash heads over the wide earth.

7 He will drink from the brook beside the road; *
therefore he will lift high his head.)

132 *Memento, Domine*

1 Lord, remember David, *
and all the hardships he endured;

2 How he swore an oath to the Lord *
and vowed a vow to the Mighty One of Jacob:

3 "I will not come under the roof of my house, *
nor climb up into my bed;

4 I will not allow my eyes to sleep, *
nor let my eyelids slumber;

5 Until I find a place for the Lord, *
a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob."

6 "The ark! We heard it was in Ephratah; *
we found it in the fields of Jearim.

7 Let us go to God's dwelling place; *
let us fall upon our knees before his footstool."

8 Arise, O Lord, into your resting-place, *
you and the ark of your strength.

9 Let your priests be clothed with righteousness; *
let your faithful people sing with joy.

10 For your servant David's sake, *
do not turn away the face of your Anointed.

11 The Lord has sworn an oath to David; *
in truth, he will not break it:

12 "A son, the fruit of your body *
will I set upon your throne.

13 If your children keep my covenant
and my testimonies that I shall teach them, *
their children will sit upon your throne for evermore."

14 For the Lord has chosen Zion; *
he has desired her for his habitation:

15 "This shall be my resting-place for ever; *
here will I dwell, for I delight in her.

16 I will surely bless her provisions, *
and satisfy her poor with bread.

17 I will clothe her priests with salvation, *
and her faithful people will rejoice and sing.

18 There will I make the horn of David flourish; *
I have prepared a lamp for my Anointed.

19 As for his enemies, I will clothe them with shame; *
but as for him, his crown will shine."

Thursday, March 26

140 *Eripe me, Domine*

1 Deliver me, O Lord, from evildoers; *
protect me from the violent,

2 Who devise evil in their hearts *
and stir up strife all day long.

3 They have sharpened their tongues like a serpent; *
adder's poison is under their lips.

4 Keep me, O Lord, from the hands of the wicked; *
protect me from the violent,
who are determined to trip me up.

5 The proud have hidden a snare for me
and stretched out a net of cords; *
they have set traps for me along the path.

6 I have said to the Lord, "You are my God; *
listen, O Lord, to my supplication.

7 O Lord God, the strength of my salvation, *
you have covered my head in the day of battle.

8 Do not grant the desires of the wicked, O Lord, *
nor let their evil plans prosper.

9 Let not those who surround me lift up their heads; *
let the evil of their lips overwhelm them.

10 Let hot burning coals fall upon them; *
let them be cast into the mire, never to rise up again."

11 A slanderer shall not be established on the earth, *
and evil shall hunt down the lawless.

12 I know that the Lord will maintain the cause of the poor *
and render justice to the needy.

13 Surely, the righteous will give thanks to your Name, *
and the upright shall continue in your sight.

142 *Voce mea ad Dominum*

1 I cry to the Lord with my voice; *
to the Lord I make loud supplication.

2 I pour out my complaint before him *
and tell him all my trouble.

3 When my spirit languishes within me, you know my path; *
in the way wherein I walk they have hidden a trap for me.

4 I look to my right hand and find no one who knows me; *
I have no place to flee to, and no one cares for me.

5 I cry out to you, O Lord; *
I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living."

6 Listen to my cry for help, for I have been brought very low; *
save me from those who pursue me, for they are too strong for me.

7 Bring me out of prison, that I may give thanks to your Name; *
when you have dealt bountifully with me, the righteous will gather around me.

Friday, March 27

141 *Domine, clamavi*

1 O Lord, I call to you; come to me quickly; *
hear my voice when I cry to you.

2 Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, *
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

3 Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord,
and guard the door of my lips; *
let not my heart incline to any evil thing.

4 Let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers, *
nor eat of their choice foods.

5 Let the righteous smite me in friendly rebuke;
let not the oil of the unrighteous anoint my head; *
for my prayer is continually against their wicked deeds.

6 Let their rulers be overthrown in stony places, *
that they may know my words are true.

7 As when a plowman turns over the earth in furrows, *
let their bones be scattered at the mouth of the grave.

8 But my eyes are turned to you, Lord God; *
in you I take refuge;
do not strip me of my life.

9 Protect me from the snare which they have laid for me *
and from the traps of the evildoers.

10 Let the wicked fall into their own nets, *
while I myself escape.

143 *Domine, exaudi*

1 Lord, hear my prayer,
and in your faithfulness heed my supplications; *
answer me in your righteousness.

2 Enter not into judgment with your servant, *
for in your sight shall no one living be justified.

3 For my enemy has sought my life;
he has crushed me to the ground; *
he has made me live in dark places like those who are long dead.

4 My spirit faints within me; *
my heart within me is desolate.

5 I remember the time past;
I muse upon all your deeds; *
I consider the works of your hands.

6 I spread out my hands to you; *
my soul gasps to you like a thirsty land.

7 O Lord, make haste to answer me; my spirit fails me; *
do not hide your face from me
or I shall be like those who go down to the Pit.

8 Let me hear of your loving-kindness in the morning, for I put my trust in you; *
show me the road that I must walk, for I lift up my soul to you.

9 Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord, *
for I flee to you for refuge.

10 Teach me to do what pleases you, for you are my God; *
let your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

11 Revive me, O Lord, for your Name's sake; *
for your righteousness' sake, bring me out of trouble.

(12 Of your goodness, destroy my enemies and bring all my foes to naught, *
for truly I am your servant.)