

Psalms for Evening Prayer

April 13 to April 17

Monday, April 13

4 *Cum invocarem*

1 Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; *
you set me free when I am hard-pressed;
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

2 "You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; *
how long will you worship dumb idols
and run after false gods?"

3 Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful; *
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.

4 Tremble, then, and do not sin; *
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.

5 Offer the appointed sacrifices *
and put your trust in the Lord.

6 Many are saying, "Oh, that we might see better times!" *
Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O Lord.

7 You have put gladness in my heart, *
more than when grain and wine and oil increase.

8 I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; *
for only you, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

7 *Domine, Deus meus*

1 O Lord my God, I take refuge in you; *
save and deliver me from all who pursue me;

2 Lest like a lion they tear me in pieces *
and snatch me away with none to deliver me.

3 O Lord my God, if I have done these things: *
if there is any wickedness in my hands,

4 If I have repaid my friend with evil, *
or plundered him who without cause is my enemy;

5 Then let my enemy pursue and overtake me, *
trample my life into the ground,
and lay my honor in the dust.

6 Stand up, O Lord, in your wrath; *
rise up against the fury of my enemies.

7 Awake, O my God, decree justice; *
let the assembly of the peoples gather round you.

8 Be seated on your lofty throne, O Most High; *
O Lord, judge the nations.

9 Give judgment for me according to my
righteousness, O Lord, *
and according to my innocence, O Most High.

10 Let the malice of the wicked come to an end,
but establish the righteous; *
for you test the mind and heart, O righteous God.

11 God is my shield and defense; *
he is the savior of the true in heart.

12 God is a righteous judge; *
God sits in judgment every day.

13 If they will not repent, God will whet his sword; *
he will bend his bow and make it ready.

14 He has prepared his weapons of death; *
he makes his arrows shafts of fire.

15 Look at those who are in labor with wickedness, *
who conceive evil, and give birth to a lie.

16 They dig a pit and make it deep *
and fall into the hole that they have made.

17 Their malice turns back upon their own head; *
their violence falls on their own scalp.

18 I will bear witness that the Lord is righteous; *
I will praise the Name of the Lord Most High.

Tuesday, April 14

10 *Ut quid, Domine?*

1 Why do you stand so far off, O Lord, *
and hide yourself in time of trouble?

2 The wicked arrogantly persecute the poor, *
but they are trapped in the schemes they have devised.

3 The wicked boast of their heart's desire; *
the covetous curse and revile the Lord.

4 The wicked are so proud that they care not for God; *
their only thought is, "God does not matter."

5 Their ways are devious at all times;
your judgments are far above out of their sight; *
they defy all their enemies.

6 They say in their heart, "I shall not be shaken; *
no harm shall happen to me ever."

7 Their mouth is full of cursing, deceit, and oppression; *
under their tongue are mischief and wrong.

8 They lurk in ambush in public squares
and in secret places they murder the innocent; *
they spy out the helpless.

9 They lie in wait, like a lion in a covert;
they lie in wait to seize upon the lowly; *
they seize the lowly and drag them away in their net.

10 The innocent are broken and humbled before them; *
the helpless fall before their power.

11 They say in their heart, "God has forgotten; *
he hides his face; he will never notice."

12 Rise up, O Lord;
lift up your hand, O God; *
do not forget the afflicted.

13 Why should the wicked revile God? *
why should they say in their heart, "You do not care"?

14 Surely, you behold trouble and misery; *
you see it and take it into your own hand.

15 The helpless commit themselves to you, *
for you are the helper of orphans.

16 Break the power of the wicked and evil; *
search out their wickedness until you find none.

17 The Lord is King for ever and ever; *
the ungodly shall perish from his land.

18 The Lord will hear the desire of the humble; *
you will strengthen their heart and your ears shall hear;

19 To give justice to the orphan and oppressed, *
so that mere mortals may strike terror no more.

11 *In Domino confido*

1 In the Lord have I taken refuge; *
how then can you say to me,
"Fly away like a bird to the hilltop;

2 For see how the wicked bend the bow
and fit their arrows to the string, *
to shoot from ambush at the true of heart.

3 When the foundations are being destroyed, *
what can the righteous do?"

4 The Lord is in his holy temple; *
the Lord's throne is in heaven.

5 His eyes behold the inhabited world; *
his piercing eye weighs our worth.

6 The Lord weighs the righteous as well as the wicked, *
but those who delight in violence he abhors.

7 Upon the wicked he shall rain coals of fire and
burning sulphur; *
a scorching wind shall be their lot.

8 For the Lord is righteous;
he delights in righteous deeds; *
and the just shall see his face.

Wednesday, April 15

12 *Salvum me fac*

1 Help me, Lord, for there is no godly one left; *
the faithful have vanished from among us.

2 Everyone speaks falsely with his neighbor; *
with a smooth tongue they speak from a double heart.

3 Oh, that the Lord would cut off all smooth tongues, *
and close the lips that utter proud boasts!

4 Those who say, "With our tongue will we prevail; *
our lips are our own; who is lord over us?"

5 "Because the needy are oppressed,
and the poor cry out in misery, "
I will rise up," says the Lord,
"and give them the help they long for."

6 The words of the Lord are pure words, *
like silver refined from ore
and purified seven times in the fire.

7 O Lord, watch over us *
and save us from this generation for ever.

8 The wicked prowl on every side, *
and that which is worthless is highly prized by everyone.

13 *Usquequo, Domine?*

1 How long, O Lord?
will you forget me for ever? *
how long will you hide your face from me?

2 How long shall I have perplexity in my mind,
and grief in my heart, day after day? *
how long shall my enemy triumph over me?

3 Look upon me and answer me, O Lord my God; *
give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death;

4 Lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him," *
and my foes rejoice that I have fallen.

5 But I put my trust in your mercy; *
my heart is joyful because of your saving help.

6 I will sing to the Lord, for he has dealt with me richly; *
I will praise the Name of the Lord Most High.

14 *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 The Lord 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, all those evildoers *
who eat up my people like bread
and do not call upon the Lord?

5 See how they tremble with fear, *
because God is in the company of the righteous.

6 Their aim is to confound the plans of the afflicted, *
but the Lord is their refuge.

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

Thursday, April 16

18

Part II *Et retribuet mihi*

21 The Lord rewarded me because of my righteous dealing; *
because my hands were clean he rewarded me;

22 For I have kept the ways of the Lord *
and have not offended against my God;

23 For all his judgments are before my eyes, *
and his decrees I have not put away from me;

24 For I have been blameless with him *
and have kept myself from iniquity;

25 Therefore the Lord rewarded me according to my
righteous dealing, *
because of the cleanness of my hands in his sight.

26 With the faithful you show yourself faithful, O God; *
with the forthright you show yourself forthright.

27 With the pure you show yourself pure, *
but with the crooked you are wily.

28 You will save a lowly people, *
but you will humble the haughty eyes.

29 You, O Lord, are my lamp; *
my God, you make my darkness bright.

30 With you I will break down an enclosure; *
with the help of my God I will scale any wall.

31 As for God, his ways are perfect;
the words of the Lord are tried in the fire; *
he is a shield to all who trust in him.

32 For who is God, but the Lord? *
who is the Rock, except our God?

33 It is God who girds me about with strength *
and makes my way secure.

34 He makes me sure-footed like a deer *
and lets me stand firm on the heights.

35 He trains my hands for battle *
and my arms for bending even a bow of bronze.

36 You have given me your shield of victory; *
your right hand also sustains me;
your loving care makes me great.

37 You lengthen my stride beneath me, *
and my ankles do not give way.

38 I pursue my enemies and overtake them; *
I will not turn back till I have destroyed them.

39 I strike them down, and they cannot rise; *
they fall defeated at my feet.

40 You have girded me with strength for the battle; *
you have cast down my adversaries beneath me;
you have put my enemies to flight.

41 I destroy those who hate me;
they cry out, but there is none to help them; *
they cry to the Lord, but he does not answer.

42 I beat them small like dust before the wind; *
I trample them like mud in the streets.

43 You deliver me from the strife of the peoples; *
you put me at the head of the nations.

44 A people I have not known shall serve me;
no sooner shall they hear than they shall obey me; *
strangers will cringe before me.

45 The foreign peoples will lose heart; *
they shall come trembling out of their strongholds.

46 The Lord lives! Blessed is my Rock! *
Exalted is the God of my salvation!

47 He is the God who gave me victory *
and cast down the peoples beneath me.

48 You rescued me from the fury of my enemies;
you exalted me above those who rose against me; *
you saved me from my deadly foe.

49 Therefore will I extol you among the nations, O Lord, *
and sing praises to your Name.

50 He multiplies the victories of his king; *
he shows loving-kindness to his anointed,
to David and his descendants for ever.

Friday, April 17

134 *Ecce nunc*

1 Behold now, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, *
you that stand by night in the house of the Lord.

2 Lift up your hands in the holy place and bless the Lord; *
the Lord who made heaven and earth bless you out of Zion.

135 *Laudate nomen*

1 Hallelujah!

Praise the Name of the Lord; *
give praise, you servants of the Lord.

2 You who stand in the house of the Lord, *
in the courts of the house of our God.

3 Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good; *
sing praises to his Name, for it is lovely.

4 For the Lord has chosen Jacob for himself *
and Israel for his own possession.

5 For I know that the Lord is great, *
and that our Lord is above all gods.

6 The Lord does whatever pleases him, in heaven, *
in the seas and all the deeps.

7 He brings up rain clouds from the ends of the earth; *
he sends out lightning with the rain,
and brings the winds out of his storehouse.

8 It was he who struck down the firstborn of Egypt, *
the firstborn both of man and beast.

9 He sent signs and wonders into the midst of you, O Egypt, *
against Pharaoh and all his servants.

10 He overthrew many nations *
and put mighty kings to death:

11 Sihon, king of the Amorites,
and Og, the king of Bashan, *
and all the kingdoms of Canaan.

12 He gave their land to be an inheritance, *
an inheritance for Israel his people.

13 O Lord, your Name is everlasting; *
your renown, O Lord, endures from age to age.

14 For the Lord gives his people justice *
and shows compassion to his servants.

15 The idols of the heathen are silver and gold, *
the work of human hands.

16 They have mouths, but they cannot speak; *
eyes have they, but they cannot see.

17 They have ears, but they cannot hear; *
neither is there any breath in their mouth.

18 Those who make them are like them, *
and so are all who put their trust in them.

19 Bless the Lord, O house of Israel; *
O house of Aaron, bless the Lord.

20 Bless the Lord, O house of Levi; *
you who fear the Lord, bless the Lord.

21 Blessed be the Lord out of Zion, *
who dwells in Jerusalem.
Hallelujah!