

# **Psalms for Evening Prayer**

## **April 27 to May 1**

**Monday, April 27**

**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, April 28**

### **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, April 29**

### **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, April 30

### **114** *In exitu Israel*

1 Hallelujah!

When Israel came out of Egypt, \*  
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,

2 Judah became God's sanctuary \*  
and Israel his dominion.

3 The sea beheld it and fled; \*  
Jordan turned and went back.

4 The mountains skipped like rams, \*  
and the little hills like young sheep.

5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? \*  
O Jordan, that you turned back?

6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams? \*  
you little hills like young sheep?

7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, \*  
at the presence of the God of Jacob,

8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water \*  
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

### **115** *Non nobis, Domine*

1 Not to us, O Lord, not to us,  
but to your Name give glory; \*  
because of your love and because of your faithfulness.

2 Why should the heathen say, \*  
"Where then is their God?"

3 Our God is in heaven; \*  
whatever he wills to do he does.

4 Their idols are silver and gold, \*  
the work of human hands.

5 They have mouths, but they cannot speak; \*  
eyes have they, but they cannot see;

6 They have ears but they cannot hear; \*  
noses, but they cannot smell;

7 They have hands, but they cannot feel;  
feet, but they cannot walk; \*  
they make no sound with their throat.

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

9 O Israel, trust in the Lord; \*  
he is their help and their shield.

10 O house of Aaron, trust in the Lord; \*  
he is their help and their shield.

11 You who fear the Lord, trust in the Lord; \*  
he is their help and their shield.

12 The Lord has been mindful of us, and he will bless us; \*  
he will bless the house of Israel;  
he will bless the house of Aaron;

13 He will bless those who fear the Lord, \*  
both small and great together.

14 May the Lord increase you more and more, \*  
you and your children after you.

15 May you be blessed by the Lord, \*  
the maker of heaven and earth.

16 The heaven of heavens is the Lord's, \*  
but he entrusted the earth to its peoples.

17 The dead do not praise the Lord, \*  
nor all those who go down into silence;

18 But we will bless the Lord, \*  
from this time forth for evermore.  
Hallelujah!

## **Friday, May 1 – St. Philip & St. James**

### **139** *Domine, probasti*

1 Lord, you have searched me out and known me; \*  
you know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.

2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places \*  
and are acquainted with all my ways.

3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, \*  
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

4 You press upon me behind and before \*  
and lay your hand upon me.

5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; \*  
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

6 Where can I go then from your Spirit? \*  
where can I flee from your presence?

7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; \*  
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

8 If I take the wings of the morning \*  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

9 Even there your hand will lead me \*  
and your right hand hold me fast.

10 If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, \*  
and the light around me turn to night,"

11 Darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is as bright as the day; \*  
darkness and light to you are both alike.

12 For you yourself created my inmost parts; \*  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

13 I will thank you because I am marvelously made; \*  
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

14 My body was not hidden from you, \*  
while I was being made in secret  
and woven in the depths of the earth.

15 Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;  
all of them were written in your book; \*  
they were fashioned day by day, when as yet there was none of them.

16 How deep I find your thoughts, O God! \*  
how great is the sum of them!

17 If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; \*  
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

18 Oh, that you would slay the wicked, O God! \*  
You that thirst for blood, depart from me.

19 They speak spitefully against you; \*  
your enemies take your Name in vain.

20 Do I not hate those, O Lord, who hate you? \*  
and do I not loathe those who rise up against you?

21 I hate them with a perfect hatred; \*  
they have become my own enemies.

22 Search me out, O God, and know my heart; \*  
try me and know my restless thoughts.

23 Look well whether there be any wickedness in me \*  
and lead me in the way that is everlasting.