Misericordiam et judicium

My song shall be of mercy and judgment; * unto you, O LORD, will I sing.

O let me have understanding * in the way of godliness.

When will you come to me? *

I will walk in my house with integrity of heart.

4 I will set no wicked thing before my eyes; *

I hate the sins of unfaithfulness; no such thing shall cleave to me.

5 A crooked heart shall depart from me; * I will not know a wicked person.

Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, * him will I destroy.

Whoever has a proud look and an arrogant heart, *
I will not suffer him.

8 My eyes shall look with favor upon the faithful in the land, * that they may dwell with me.

9 Whoever leads a godly life, * he shall be my servant.

10 No deceitful person shall dwell in my house; *

the one who tells lies shall not tarry in my sight.

I shall soon destroy all the ungodly who are in the land, * that I may root out all evildoers from the city of the LORD.

DAY 20: MORNING PRAYER

102

Domine, exaudi

1 Hear my prayer, O LORD, *

and let my cry come unto you.

2 Hide not your face from me in the time of my trouble; * incline your ear to me when I call; O hear me, and very soon.

For my days are consumed like smoke, *

and my bones are burnt up as in a furnace.

4 My heart is smitten and withered like grass, * so that I forget to eat my bread.

5 Because of the voice of my groaning, *

my bones will scarcely cleave to my flesh.

6 I have become like an owl in the wilderness * and like a screech-owl among the ruins.

7 I am solitary, and lie sleepless because of my groaning; *

I am like a sparrow that sits alone upon the housetop.

8 My enemies revile me all day long, *

and those who are enraged against me conspire to do me hurt.

9 For I have eaten ashes as if they were bread * and mingled my drink with weeping,

10 Because of your indignation and wrath, *

for you have taken me up and cast me down.

11 My days are gone like a shadow, *

and I am withered like grass.

12 But you, O LORD, shall endure for ever, *

and your remembrance throughout all generations.

You shall arise and have mercy upon Zion, *

for it is time for you to have mercy upon her; indeed, the time has come.

14 For your servants love her very stones, *

and are moved to pity to see her in the dust.

15 The nations shall fear your Name, O LORD, *

and all the kings of the earth your majesty,

When the LORD shall build up Zion, * and when his glory shall appear,

When he turns to the prayer of the destitute * and despises not their plea.

18 This shall be written for those that come after, *

and a people that shall yet be born shall praise the LORD.

19 For he has looked down from his sanctuary; *

from the heavens the LORD has beheld the earth,

That he might hear the groanings of those who are in captivity,* and deliver those who are condemned to die,

That they may declare the Name of the LORD in Zion, * and his praises in Jerusalem;

When the peoples are gathered together, * and the kingdoms also, to serve the LORD.

He brought down my strength before my time, * and shortened my days.

But I said, "O my God, take me not away in the midst of my days; * for your years endure throughout all generations."

You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, * and the heavens are the work of your hands.

26 They shall perish, but you shall endure; *

they all shall wear out, as does a garment;

And as a garment you shall change them, and they shall be changed; * but you are the same, and your years shall not fail.

The children of your servants shall continue, * and their seed shall stand fast in your sight.

103

Benedic, anima mea

Praise the LORD, O my soul, *

and all that is within me, praise his holy Name.

Praise the LORD, O my soul, *

and forget not all his benefits:

Who forgives all your sin *

and heals all your infirmities,

Who saves your life from the pit *

and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness,

- Who satisfies you with good things, *
 - renewing your youth like an eagle's.
- The LORD executes righteousness and judgment * for all those who are oppressed with wrong.
- He showed his ways to Moses, *

his works to the children of Israel.

8 The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, * long-suffering and of great goodness.

9 He will not always chide us, *

neither will he keep his anger for ever.

10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *

nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, *

so great is his mercy also toward those who fear him.

12 As far as the east is from the west, *

so far has he set our sins from us.

13 As a father pities his own children, *

so is the LORD merciful to those who fear him.

14 For he knows whereof we are made; *

he remembers that we are but dust.

15 The days of man are as grass; *

he flourishes as a flower of the field.

16 For as soon as the wind goes over it, it is gone, *

and its place shall know it no more.

- But the merciful goodness of the LORD endures for ever and ever upon those who fear him, * and his righteousness upon children's children,
- 18 Even upon those who keep his covenant *

and think upon his commandments to do them.

19 The LORD has prepared his throne in heaven, *

and his kingdom rules over all.

- O praise the LORD, you angels of his, you that excel in strength, * you that fulfill his commandment, and hearken unto the voice of his words.
- O praise the LORD, all you his hosts, * you servants of his that do his pleasure.
- O speak good of the LORD, all you works of his, in all places of his dominion; * praise the LORD, O my soul.

DAY 20: EVENING PRAYER

104

Benedic, anima mea

1 Praise the LORD, O my soul. *

O LORD my God, you have become exceedingly glorious; you are clothed with majesty and honor.

You clothe yourself with light as with a garment, *

and spread out the heavens like a curtain.

3 You lay the beams of your chambers in the waters, *

and make the clouds your chariot, and walk upon the wings of the wind.

4 You make winds your messengers, *

and flames of fire your ministers.

5 You laid the foundations of the earth, *

that it never should move at any time.

6 You cover it with the deep as with a garment; *

the waters stand above the hills.

7 At your rebuke they fled; *

at the voice of your thunder they hastened away.

They went up as high as the hills, and down to the valleys beneath, * even to the place you had appointed for them.

You have set bounds for them which they shall not pass; *

neither shall they again cover the earth.

10 You send the springs into the rivers, *

which run among the hills.

11 All beasts of the field drink thereof, *

and the wild donkeys quench their thirst.

Beside them shall the birds of the air have their habitation *

and sing among the branches.

13 You water the hills from above; *

the earth is filled with the fruit of your works.

14 You bring forth grass for the cattle, *

and plants for the service of mankind,

That they may bring food out of the earth, and wine that makes glad the heart, * and oil to make a cheerful countenance, and bread to strengthen the heart.

16 The trees of the LORD also are full of sap, *

even the cedars of Lebanon which he planted,

17 Wherein the birds make their nests, *

and the fir trees are a dwelling for the stork.

18 The high hills are a refuge for the wild goats, *

and so are the stony cliffs for the rock badgers.

19 You appointed the moon to mark the seasons, *

and the sun knows its going down.

20 You make darkness that it may be night, *

in which all the beasts of the forest move.

21 The lions, roaring after their prey, *

seek their meat from God.

The sun arises, and they go away together, * and lay themselves down in their dens.

23 Man goes forth to his work, *

and to his labor until the evening.

24 O LORD, how manifold are your works; *

in wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

25 So is the great and wide sea also, *

in which are things creeping innumerable, creatures both small and great.

26 There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan, *

whom you made to take its pleasure therein.

27 These all wait upon you, *

that you may give them food in due season.

28 When you give it to them, they gather it, *

and when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

29 When you hide your face, they are troubled; *

when you take away their breath, they die, and are turned again to their dust.

When you let your breath go forth, they shall be made, *

and you shall renew the face of the earth.

The glorious majesty of the LORD shall endure for ever; *

the LORD shall rejoice in his works.

32 He looks at the earth and it trembles; *

if he even touches the hills, they shall smoke.

33 I will sing unto the LORD as long as I live; *

I will praise my God while I have my being,

34 And so shall my words please him; *

my joy shall be in the LORD.

As for sinners, they shall perish from the earth, and the ungodly shall come to an end. * Praise the LORD, O my soul. Praise the LORD.

DAY 21: MORNING PRAYER

105

Confitemini Domino

- Give thanks unto the LORD and call upon his Name; * tell the peoples what things he has done.
- O let your songs be of him, and praise him, * and let your speech be of all his wondrous works.
- 3 Rejoice in his holy Name; *

let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

4 Seek the LORD and his strength; *

seek his face evermore.

- Remember the marvelous works that he has done, * his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth,
- 6 O seed of Abraham his servant, * O children of Jacob his chosen.
- 7 He is the LORD our God; *

his judgments are in all the world.

- 8 He has always been mindful of his covenant, * and the promise that he made to a thousand generations,
- Even the covenant that he made with Abraham, * and the oath that he swore to Isaac,
- Which he appointed to Jacob for a law, * and to Israel for an everlasting testament,
- Saying, "To you will I give the land of Canaan * to be the portion of your inheritance."
- When there were yet but a few of them, * and they were strangers in the land,
- And they wandered from nation to nation, * and from one kingdom to another,
- 14 He allowed no one to do them wrong, * but reproved even kings for their sakes:
- 15 "Do not touch my Anointed, * and do my prophets no harm."
- Moreover, he called for a famine in the land * and destroyed all the provision of bread.
- 17 But he had sent a man before them: *

Joseph, who was sold to be a bondservant,

18 Whose feet they hurt in the stocks; *

they put an iron collar around his neck.

- 19 Until the time came that his sayings were fulfilled, * the word of the LORD tried him.
- 20 The king sent and delivered him; *

the ruler of the people let him go free.

- 21 He made him lord over his house, *
 - and ruler of all his possessions,
- 22 That he might instruct his princes according to his will * and teach his elders wisdom.
- 23 Israel also came into Egypt, * and Jacob was a stranger in the land of Ham.

- 24 And he increased his people exceedingly, * and made them stronger than their enemies,
- Whose heart he turned, so that they hated his people, * and dealt deceitfully with his servants.
- Then he sent Moses his servant, *

and Aaron whom he had chosen,

- 27 And they worked his signs among them, * and wonders in the land of Ham.
- ²⁸ He sent darkness, and it was dark; * but they were not obedient to his word.
- ²⁹ He turned their waters into blood * and caused their fish to die.
- Their land brought forth frogs, * even in their kings' chambers.
- He spoke the word, and there came all manner of flies, * and gnats in all their borders.
- 32 He gave them hailstones for rain, * and flames of fire in their land.
- 33 He smote their vines also, and their fig trees, * and destroyed the trees that were in their borders.
- 34 He spoke the word, and the grasshoppers came, and locusts innumerable, * which ate up all the grass in their land and devoured the fruit of their ground.
- 35 He smote all the firstborn in their land, * even the firstfruits of all their strength.
- 36 He brought forth Israel with silver and gold; * in all their tribes there was not one who stumbled.
- Egypt was glad at their departing, * for they were afraid of them.
- 38 He spread out a cloud to be a covering, * and fire to give light in the night season.
- 39 At their desire he brought quail, *

and he filled them with the bread of heaven.

- He opened the rock, and the waters flowed out, * so that rivers ran in the dry places.
- For he remembered his holy promise * and Abraham his servant.
- And he brought forth his people with joy, * and his chosen ones with gladness,
- And gave them the lands of the nations, * and they took the labors of the peoples in possession,
- That they might keep his statutes * and observe his laws. Praise the LORD.

DAY 21: EVENING PRAYER

106

Confitemini Domino

- O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is gracious, * and his mercy endures for ever.
- Who can express the mighty acts of the LORD, * or show forth all his praise?
- 3 Blessed are those who act with justice, *

and who always do righteousness.

4 Remember me, O LORD, according to the favor that you show to your people; *

O visit me with your salvation,

That I may see the felicity of your chosen, *

and rejoice in the gladness of your people, and give thanks with your inheritance.

6 We have sinned like our fathers; *

we have done wrong and dealt wickedly.

Our fathers regarded not your wonders in Egypt, neither did they keep your great goodness in remembrance, *

but were disobedient at the sea, even at the Red Sea.

Nevertheless, he saved them for his Name's sake, *

that he might make his power known.

9 He rebuked the Red Sea, and it was dried up; *

so he led them through the deep as through a wilderness.

And he saved them from the adversary's hand, *

and delivered them from the hand of the enemy.

11 As for those who troubled them, the waters overwhelmed them;*

there was not one of them left.

12 Then they believed his words *

and sang praises unto him.

13 But soon they forgot his works *

and would not wait for his counsel.

14 A craving came upon them in the wilderness, *

and they tempted God in the desert.

5 So he gave them their desire, *

and sent leanness into their soul.

16 They were envious of Moses also in the camp, *

and of Aaron the holy one of the LORD.

17 So the earth opened and swallowed up Dathan * and covered the company of Abiram,

18 And fire was kindled in their company; *

the flame burnt up the ungodly.

19 They made a calf in Horeb *

and worshiped a molten image.

20 Thus they exchanged their glory *

for the image of a calf that feeds on hay.

21 And they forgot God their Savior, *

who had done great things in Egypt,

22 Wondrous works in the land of Ham, *

and fearful things by the Red Sea.

23 So he said he would have destroyed them, had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the gap * to turn away his wrathful indignation, lest he should destroy them.

24 Then they scorned that pleasant land *

and gave no credence to his word,

25 But murmured in their tents *

and did not hearken to the voice of the LORD.

26 Then he lifted up his hand against them *

to overthrow them in the wilderness,

27 To cast out their seed among the nations, *

and to scatter them in all the lands.

They joined themselves to Baal-Peor *

and ate the offerings to the dead.

29 Thus they provoked him to anger with their wanton deeds, *

and the plague broke out among them.

30 Then Phineas stood up and interceded, *

and so the plague was ended;

And that was counted to him as righteousness * among all generations for evermore.

They angered him also at the waters of strife, * so that he punished Moses for their misdeeds;

33 For they provoked him to anger, *

so that he spoke rashly with his lips.

Neither did they destroy the peoples *

as the LORD commanded them,

35 But intermingled among the nations * and learned their heathen ways,

36 So that they worshiped their idols, which became a snare to them; *

they offered their sons and their daughters to demons,

And shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and of their daughters, * whom they offered to the idols of Canaan; and the land was defiled with blood.

Thus were they defiled by their own works * and went whoring with their own deeds.

39 Therefore was the wrath of the LORD kindled against his people, *

and he abhorred his own inheritance,

And he gave them over into the hands of the nations, * and those who hated them were lords over them.

Their enemies oppressed them * and held them in subjection.

42 Many a time did he deliver them, *

but they rebelled against him through their own devices, and were brought down in their wickedness.

Nevertheless, when he saw their adversity, *

when he heard their lamentation,

He remembered his covenant and pitied them, according to the multitude of his mercies; * he made all those who led them away captive to pity them.

Deliver us, O LORD our God, and gather us from among the nations, *

that we may give thanks to your holy Name and make our boast of your praise.

46 Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting and world without end, * and let all the people say, "Amen." Praise the LORD.

DAY 22: MORNING PRAYER

107

Confitemini Domino

O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is gracious, *

and his mercy endures for ever.

2 Let those whom the LORD has redeemed give thanks, * whom he has delivered from the hand of the enemy,

And gathered them out of the lands, from the east and from the west, * from the north and from the south.

They went astray in the wilderness, even in the desert, * and found no city to dwell in;

5 They were hungry and thirsty, *

and their soul fainted within them.

Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, * and he delivered them from their distress.

- 7 He led them forth by a straight path * until they came to a city where they might dwell.
- 8 Oh, that they would therefore praise the LORD for his goodness * and declare the wonders that he does for the children of men!
- 9 For he satisfies the empty soul *

and fills the hungry soul with goodness.

- Some sat in darkness, and in the shadow of death, * being bound fast in misery and iron,
- Because they rebelled against the words of God * and lightly regarded the counsel of the Most High.
- He also brought down their heart with heaviness; * they fell down, and there was none to help them.
- Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, * and he delivered them out of their distress.
- ¹⁴ For he brought them out of darkness, and out of the shadow of death, * and broke their bonds asunder.
- Oh, that they would therefore praise the LORD for his goodness * and declare the wonders that he does for the children of men!
- 16 For he has broken the gates of brass * and shattered the bars of iron asunder.
- 17 The foolish were plagued for their offense * and because of their wickedness.
- 18 Their soul abhorred all manner of food, * and they were even close to death's door.
- 19 So when they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, * he delivered them out of their distress.
- 20 He sent his word and healed them, * and they were saved from destruction.
- Oh, that they would therefore praise the LORD for his goodness * and declare the wonders that he does for the children of men!
- That they would offer unto him the sacrifice of thanksgiving * and tell of his works with gladness!
- Those who go down to the sea in ships, *
 who carry out their business in great waters,
- 24 They behold the works of the LORD * and his wonders in the deep.
- 25 For at his word the stormy wind arises, * which lifts up the waves.
- They are carried up to heaven and down again to the deep; * their soul melts away because of the trouble.
- 27 They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, * and are at their wits' end.
- 28 So when they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, * he delivers them out of their distress.
- ²⁹ For he makes the storm to cease, * so that the waves are still.
- 30 Then they are glad, because they are at rest, *

and so he brings them into the haven where they desire to be.

- Oh, that they would therefore praise the LORD for his goodness * and declare the wonders that he does for the children of men!
- That they would exalt him also in the congregation of the people * and praise him in the seat of the elders!
- 33 He turns rivers into a wilderness *

and water-springs into thirsty ground,

34 A fruitful land he makes barren, *

because of the wickedness of those who dwell there.

- Again, he makes the wilderness into pools of water * and dry ground into water-springs;
- 36 And there he sets the hungry *

that they may build a city to dwell in,

- That they may sow their land and plant vineyards * to yield the fruits of increase.
- He blesses them, so that they multiply exceedingly, * and does not allow their cattle to decrease.
- And again, when they are diminished and brought low, * through oppression, through any plague or trouble,
- Though he pours contempt on princes *

and lets them wander in the pathless wilderness,

- 41 Yet he helps the poor out of misery *
 - and increases their households like a flock of sheep.
- The righteous will consider this and rejoice, * and the mouth of all wickedness shall be stopped.
- Whoever is wise will ponder these things, * and shall understand the loving-kindness of the LORD.

DAY 22: EVENING PRAYER

108

Paratum cor meum

- O God, my heart is fixed, my heart is firmly fixed; *
 I will sing and give praise with the best that I have.
- 2 Awake, my soul; awake, lute and harp; *

I myself will awaken the dawn.

- 3 I will give thanks unto you, O LORD, among the peoples, * and I will sing praises unto you among the nations,
- 4 For the greatness of your mercy reaches to the heavens, * and your faithfulness to the clouds.
- 5 Exalt yourself, O God, above the heavens; *

let your glory be over all the earth.

- 6 That your beloved may be delivered, *
 - save me by your right hand, and answer me.
- 7 God has spoken in his holiness: *
 - "I will rejoice and divide Shechem, and parcel out the valley of Succoth.
- 8 Gilead is mine, and Manasseh is mine; *
 - Ephraim also is the helmet for my head; Judah is my scepter.
- Moab is my wash-pot; over Edom will I cast my shoe; * over Philistia will I triumph."
- 10 Who will lead me into the strong city, *

and who will bring me into Edom?

- 11 Have you not forsaken us, O God? *
 - And will you not, O God, go forth with our hosts?
- O help us against the enemy, *

for vain is the help of man.

- 13 Through God we shall do great acts, *
 - for it is he who shall tread down our enemies.

Deus, laudem

1 Hold not your tongue, O God of my praise, *

for the mouth of the ungodly, the mouth of the deceitful is opened upon me.

2 They have spoken against me with false tongues; *

they encompassed me with words of hatred, and fought against me without a cause.

- In return for the love that I had for them, they have become my adversaries; * but I give myself to prayer.
- 4 Thus have they rewarded me evil for good, *

and hatred for my love.

5 Set an ungodly man to be ruler over him, *

and let an accuser stand at his right hand.

6 When judgment is given, let him be condemned, * and let sentence be passed on him for guilt.

7 Let his days be few, *

and let another take his office.

8 Let his children be fatherless *

and his wife a widow.

9 Let his children be vagabonds and beg their bread; *

let them be driven out, even from desolate places.

10 Let the creditor consume all that he has, *

and let strangers take his labor for spoil.

Let there be no one to pity him, *

nor to have compassion upon his fatherless children.

12 Let his posterity be destroyed, *

and in the next generation let his name be blotted out.

- Let the wickedness of his fathers be held in remembrance in the sight of the LORD, * and let not the sin of his mother be blotted out.
- 14 Let them be always before the LORD, *

that he may root out the memorial of them from the earth,

15 Because he was not minded to do good, *

but persecuted to death the poor and needy, and those who were brokenhearted.

16 His delight was in cursing; let curses come upon him; *

he loved not blessing; therefore let it be far from him.

17 He clothed himself with cursing as with a garment, *

so let it soak into his body like water, and like oil into his bones.

18 Let it be to him as the cloak that he has on *

and as the belt that he always wears.

19 Let this be the recompense from the LORD to my enemies, *

and to those who speak evil against my soul.

20 But deal with me, O LORD God, according to your Name; *

for sweet is your mercy.

O deliver me, for I am helpless and poor, *

and my heart is wounded within me.

²² I disappear like the shadow that lengthens, * and am shaken off like a grasshopper.

23 My knees are weak through fasting; *

my flesh is grown lean for want of nourishment.

I have become a reproach to them; *

when they look on me, they shake their heads.

25 Help me, O LORD my God; *

save me according to your mercy;

26 And they shall know that this is your hand, *

and that you, O LORD, have done it.

27 Though they curse, yet you bless; *

let them be confounded who rise up against me, but let your servant rejoice.

28 Let my adversaries be clothed with shame, *

and let them cover themselves with their own disgrace as with a cloak.

- As for me, I will give great thanks unto the LORD with my mouth, * and praise him among the multitude,
- For he shall stand at the right hand of the poor, * to save their souls from the unrighteous judges.

DAY 23 : MORNING PRAYER

110

Dixit Dominus

- The LORD said unto my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, *
 - until I make your enemies your footstool."
- 2 The LORD shall send the scepter of your power out of Zion: *

"Rule in the midst of your enemies."

- In the day of your power the people, in holy raiment, shall offer you freewill offerings; * from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth belongs to you.
- 4 The LORD has sworn and will not recant: *
 - "You are a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek."
- 5 The LORD at your right hand *
 - shall smite kings in the day of his wrath.
- 6 He shall judge the nations; *

he shall fill the lands with dead bodies, and strike down heads over many countries.

7 He shall drink from the brook by the way; *

therefore shall he lift up his head.

111

Confitebor tibi

- Praise the LORD. I will give thanks unto the LORD with my whole heart, * in the company of the upright, and among the congregation.
- 2 The works of the LORD are great, *

sought out by all who have pleasure in them.

3 His work is worthy to be praised and held in honor, *

and his righteousness endures for ever.

4 He has made his marvelous works to be had in remembrance; *

The LORD is gracious and merciful.

5 He has given food to those who fear him; *

he shall ever be mindful of his covenant.

6 He has shown his people the power of his works, *

that he may give them the heritage of the nations.

7 The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; *

all his commandments are true.

8 They stand fast for ever and ever, *

and are done in truth and equity.

9 He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant for ever; * holy and awesome is his Name.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; * a good understanding have all those who live accordingly; his praise endures for ever.

112

Beatus vir

- Praise the LORD! Blessed is the one who fears the LORD, * who has great delight in his commandments.
- 2 His seed shall be mighty in the land; *

the generation of the faithful shall be blessed.

- Riches and plenteousness shall be in his house, * and his righteousness shall endure for ever.
- 4 For the upright, there rises light in the darkness; * he is merciful, loving, and righteous.
- 5 It is good for him to be generous in lending * and to guide his words with discretion.
- 6 For he shall never be moved, *

and the righteous shall be kept in everlasting remembrance.

7 He will not be afraid of any evil tidings, *

for his heart is steadfast and trusts in the LORD.

8 His heart is established, and will not fear; *

at the last he shall see his desire upon his enemies.

9 He has given freely to the poor, *

and his righteousness endures for ever; his horn shall be exalted with honor.

10 The ungodly shall see it, and shall be angry; *

he shall gnash his teeth, and waste away; the desire of the ungodly shall perish.

113

Laudate, pueri

- Praise the LORD. Sing praises, you servants of the LORD; *
 - O praise the Name of the LORD.
- 2 Blessed be the Name of the LORD, *

from this time forth for evermore.

3 The LORD's Name be praised *

from the rising up of the sun to the going down of the same.

4 The LORD is high above all nations, *

and his glory above the heavens.

5 Who is like the LORD our God, who has his dwelling so high, *

and yet humbles himself to behold the things that are in heaven and earth?

6 He takes up the lowly out of the dust, *

and lifts the poor out of the ashes,

7 That he may set them with the princes, *

even with the princes of his people.

8 He gives the barren woman a home to dwell in, *

and makes her to be a joyful mother of children. Praise the LORD.

DAY 23: EVENING PRAYER

114

In exitu Israel

- When Israel came out of Egypt, *
 and the house of Jacob from among a people of a foreign tongue,
- Judah was God's sanctuary, * and Israel his dominion.

The sea beheld it and fled; *

Jordan was driven back.

The mountains skipped like rams

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

What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? *
O Jordan, that you were driven back?

6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams, * and 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 the flint stone into a springing well.

115

Non nobis, Domine

- Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto your Name give the praise, * for your loving mercy and for your truth's sake.
- 2 Why shall the nations say, *

"Where now is their God?"

3 As for our God, he is in heaven; * he has done whatsoever pleased him.

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

5 They have mouths, but they speak not; * eyes have they, but they see not.

They have ears, but they hear not; * noses have they, but they smell not.

7 They have hands, but they feel not; feet have they, but they walk not; * neither is there any sound in their throat.

8 Those who make them are like them, *

and so are all who put their trust in them.

9 But you, O house of Israel, trust in the LORD; * he is their helper and defender.

You house of Aaron, put your trust in the LORD; *

he is their helper and defender.

You who fear the LORD, put your trust in the LORD; * he is their helper and defender.

The LORD has been mindful of us, and he shall bless us; *
he shall bless the house of Israel; he shall bless the house of Aaron;

13 He shall bless those who fear the LORD, *

both small and great together.

14 The LORD shall increase you more and more, * you and your children after you.

15 You are the blessed of the LORD, *

who has made heaven and earth.

16 The heavens are the LORD's; *

the earth has he given to the children of men.

17 The dead praise you not, O LORD, *

neither all those who go down into silence.

18 But we will praise the LORD, *

from this time forth for evermore. Praise the LORD.

DAY 24: MORNING PRAYER

116

Dilexi, quoniam

1 I love the LORD, *

because he heard the voice of my prayer,

2 Because he inclined his ear to me; *

therefore will I call upon him as long as I live.

- The snares of death encompassed me, and the pains of the Grave laid hold of me; *
 I suffered trouble and sorrow.
- Then I called upon the Name of the LORD: *

"O LORD, I beseech you, deliver my soul."

5 Gracious is the LORD and righteous; *

indeed, our God is full of compassion.

6 The Lord preserves the simple; *

I was in misery, and he helped me.

7 Turn again to your rest, O my soul, *

for the LORD has rewarded you.

8 You have delivered my soul from death, *

my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.

9 I will walk before the LORD *

in the land of the living.

¹⁰ I believed, and therefore will I speak: "I am greatly troubled." *

I said in my haste, "All men are liars."

11 What shall I give unto the LORD *

for all the benefits that he has done unto me?

12 I will lift up the cup of salvation *

and call upon the Name of the LORD.

13 I will pay my vows unto the Lord in the presence of all his people; *

dear in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

14 O LORD, I am your servant; *

I am your servant, and the child of your handmaid; you have broken my bonds asunder.

15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *

and will call upon the Name of the LORD.

¹⁶ I will pay my vows unto the LORD in the sight of all his people, *

in the courts of the LORD's house, even in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD.

117

Laudate Dominum

O praise the LORD, all you nations; *

praise him, all you peoples.

2 For great is his loving-kindness towards us, *

and the faithfulness of the LORD endures for ever.

Praise the LORD.

Give thanks unto the LORD, for he is gracious; *

his mercy endures for ever.

2 Let Israel now confess that he is gracious, *

that his mercy endures for ever.

3 Let the house of Aaron now confess *

that his mercy endures for ever.

4 Indeed, let those who fear the LORD confess *

that his mercy endures for ever.

5 I called upon the LORD in trouble, *

and the LORD heard me and set me free.

6 The LORD is on my side; *

I will not fear what man can do to me.

7 The LORD takes my side with those who help me; *

therefore shall I look in triumph on my enemies.

8 It is better to trust in the LORD *

than to put any confidence in man.

9 It is better to trust in the LORD *

than to put any confidence in princes.

10 All the nations encompass me, *

but in the Name of the LORD will I cut them off.

They hem me in on every side; indeed, they hem me in on every side, * but in the Name of the LORD will I cut them off.

12 They come about me like bees, and blaze like fire among the thorns, * but in the Name of the LORD will I cut them off.

13 I was thrust aside so that I almost fell, *

but the LORD was my help.

14 The LORD is my strength and my song, *

and has become my salvation.

The voice of joy and deliverance is in the dwellings of the righteous; * the right hand of the LORD brings mighty things to pass.

16 The right hand of the LORD is exalted; *

the right hand of the LORD brings mighty things to pass.

17 I shall not die, but live, *

and declare the works of the LORD.

18 The LORD has chastened and corrected me, *

but he has not given me over to death.

19 Open unto me the gates of righteousness, *

that I may go into them, and give thanks unto the LORD.

20 This is the gate of the LORD; *

the righteous shall enter into it.

21 I will thank you, for you have heard me, *

and have become my salvation.

22 The same stone which the builders refused *

has become the chief cornerstone.

23 This is the LORD's doing, *

and it is marvelous in our eyes.

24 This is the day that the LORD has made; *

we will rejoice and be glad in it.

25 Help me now, O LORD; *

O LORD, send us now prosperity.

26 Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the LORD; *

we bless you from the house of the LORD.

- God is the LORD, who has shown us light; *
 bind the sacrifice with cords, even to the horns of the altar.
- You are my God, and I will thank you; * you are my God, and I will exalt you.
- 29 O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is gracious; * his mercy endures for ever.

DAY 24: EVENING PRAYER

119

Beati immaculati ALEPH

- Blessed are those who are undefiled in their ways, * and walk in the law of the LORD.
- Blessed are those who keep his testimonies * and seek him with their whole heart,
- Even those who do no wickedness * and perfectly walk in his ways.
- 4 You have ordered your precepts * that we should diligently keep them.
- O that my ways were made so direct * that I might keep your statutes!
- 6 Then would I not be put to shame * while I give heed unto all your commandments.
- 7 I will thank you with an upright heart, * when I have learned your righteous judgments.
- 8 I will keep your statutes; *
 O do not forsake me utterly.

In quo corrigit?
BETH

- 9 How shall a young man cleanse his way? * By ruling himself according to your word.
- With my whole heart I have sought you; *
 - O let me not go astray from your commandments.
- Your words have I hidden within my heart, * that I may not sin against you.
- Blessed are you, O LORD; * teach me your statutes.
- With my lips have I been telling * of all the judgments of your mouth.
- ¹⁴ I have had greater delight in the way of your testimonies * than in all manner of riches.
- 15 I will meditate on your commandments * and have respect for all your ways.
- My delight will be in your statutes, * and I will not forget your word.

Retribue servo tuo GIMEL

O do well unto your servant, *

that I may live, and keep your word.

18 Open my eyes that I may see *

the wondrous things of your law.

19 I am a sojourner on earth; *

O hide not your commandments from me.

- 20 My soul is consumed with the fervent desire * that it always has for your judgments.
- 21 You have rebuked the proud, *

and cursed are those who stray from your commandments.

O turn from me shame and contempt, *

for I have kept your testimonies.

23 Though princes sit and speak against me, * yet will your servant meditate on your statutes;

²⁴ For your testimonies are my delight, * and they are my counselors.

Adhæsit pavimento DALETH

25 My soul cleaves to the dust; *

O revive me, according to your word

I have acknowledged my ways, and you heard me; * O teach me your statutes.

Make me to understand the way of your commandments, * and so shall I meditate on your wondrous works.

28 My soul melts away for heaviness; * comfort me according to your word.

²⁹ Take from me the way of lying, * and graciously teach me your law.

30 I have chosen the way of truth, *

and your judgments have I set before me.

31 I hold fast to your testimonies; *

O LORD, let me not be put to shame.

32 I will run the way of your commandments * when you enlarge my heart with understanding.

DAY 25: MORNING PRAYER

Legem pone HE

- Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, * and I shall keep it to the end.
- Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; * indeed, I shall keep it with my whole heart.
- Make me go in the path of your commandments, * for therein is my desire.
- 36 Incline my heart to your testimonies, * and not to covetous desires.
- O turn away my eyes, lest they behold vanity, * and revive me in your ways.
- ³⁸ Confirm your word to your servant, * and to all those who fear you.
- Take away the reproach that I am afraid of, * for your judgments are good.

Behold, my delight is in your precepts; *
O revive me in your righteousness.

Et veniat super me WAW

- 41 Let your loving mercy come to me, O LORD, * even your salvation, according to your word.
- 42 So shall I answer those who taunt me, * for my trust is in your word.
- O do not take the word of your truth utterly out of my mouth,* for my hope is in your judgments.
- 44 So shall I always keep your law, * even for ever and ever;
- 45 And I will walk at liberty, *

for I seek your commandments.

- ⁴⁶ I will speak of your testimonies also, even before kings, * and will not be ashamed;
- 47 And my delight shall be in your commandments, * which I have loved exceedingly.
- 48 My hands also will I lift up to your commandments, * and I will meditate on your statutes.

Memor esto verbi tui

- O remember your word to your servant, * in which you have caused me to put my trust.
- 50 This is my comfort in my trouble, * for your word has given me life.
- The proud have held me exceedingly in derision, * yet I have not turned aside from your law.
- 52 For I have remembered, O LORD, your judgments from of old, * and by them I have received comfort.
- I am filled with indignation, *

because of the ungodly who forsake your law.

- Your statutes have been my songs *
 - in the house of my pilgrimage.
- I have thought upon your Name, O LORD, in the night season,* and I have kept your law.
- This has been my reward, *

because I have kept your commandments.

Portio mea, Domine

- 57 You are my portion, O LORD; *
 - I have promised to keep your law.
- I made my humble petition in your presence with my whole heart; *
 O be merciful to me, according to your word.
- ⁵⁹ I have called my ways to remembrance *
 - and turned my feet to your testimonies.
- 60 I made haste and did not delay *
 - to keep your commandments.

- The cords of the ungodly have encircled me, * but I have not forgotten your law.
- 62 At midnight I will rise to give thanks to you, * because of your righteous judgments.
- I am a companion of all those who fear you * and keep your commandments.
- The earth, O LORD, is full of your mercy; *
 O teach me your statutes.

Bonitatem fecisti TETH

- 65 O LORD, you have dealt graciously with your servant, * according to your word.
- 66 O teach me true understanding and knowledge, * for I have believed your commandments.
- ⁶⁷ Before I was afflicted I went astray, * but now I keep your word.
- You are good and gracious; *
 - O teach me your statutes.
- 69 The proud have slandered me with lies, *
 but I will keep your commandments with my whole heart.
- 70 Their heart has become gross with fatness, * but my delight is in your law.
- 71 It is good for me that I have been afflicted, * that I may learn your statutes.
- 72 The law of your mouth is dearer to me * than thousands in gold and silver.

DAY 25: EVENING PRAYER

Manus tuæ fecerunt me YODH

- 73 Your hands have made me and fashioned me; *
 - O give me understanding, that I may learn your commandments.
- 74 Those who fear you will be glad when they see me, * because I have put my trust in your word.
- 75 I know, O Lord, that your judgments are right, *
 - and that in your faithfulness you have caused me to be afflicted.
- O let your merciful kindness be my comfort, * according to your word to your servant.
 - O let your loving mercies come to me, that I may live, *

for your law is my delight.

- ⁷⁸ Let the proud be put to shame, for they go about wickedly to destroy me; * but I will meditate on your commandments.
- 79 Let those who fear you turn to me, *
 - even those who know your testimonies.
- 80 O let my heart be sound in your statutes, * that I may never be put to shame.

Defecit anima mea KAPH 81 My soul has longed for your salvation, *

and I have a good hope because of your word.

82 My eyes long sorely for your word, *

saying, "O when will you comfort me?"

For I have become like a wineskin in the smoke, * yet I do not forget your statutes.

84 How many are the days of your servant? *

When will you execute judgment on those who persecute me?

The proud have dug pits for me; * they do not walk after your law.

86 All your commandments are true. *

They persecute me falsely; O Lord, be my help.

They had almost made an end of me on earth, *

but I have not forsaken your commandments.

O revive me with your loving-kindness, * and so shall I keep the testimonies of your mouth.

In aternum, Domine
LAMEDH

89 O LORD, your word endures for ever; * it stands fast in heaven.

90 Your faithfulness remains from one generation to another; * you have laid the foundation of the earth, and it abides.

91 Surely your ordinances stand firm this day, *

for all things are your servants.

92 If my delight had not been in your law, *
I should have perished in my affliction.

93 I will never forget your commandments, * for with them you have enlivened me.

94 I am yours; O save me! *

For I have sought your commandments.

The ungodly lie in wait for me to destroy me, * but I will consider your testimonies.

⁹⁶ I see that all things come to an end, *

but your commandment has no bounds.

Quomodo dilexi! MEM

97 Lord, what love I have for your law; * all the day long I meditate on it.

You, through your commandment, have made me wiser than my enemies, * for it is always with me.

⁹⁹ I have more understanding than my teachers, *

for your testimonies are my study.

100 I am wiser than the agéd, *

because I keep your commandments.

101 I have restrained my feet from every evil way, *

that I may keep your word.

102 I have not turned aside from your judgments, *

for you yourself have taught me.

103 Oh, how sweet are your words to my taste; * indeed, sweeter than honey to my mouth.

104 Through your commandments I get understanding; * therefore I hate all evil ways.

DAY 26: MORNING PRAYER

Lucerna pedibus meis NUN

105 Your word is a lantern to my feet * and a light upon my path.

106 I have sworn and am steadfastly purposed *

to keep your righteous judgments.

107 I am troubled above measure; *

revive me, O LORD, according to your word.

108 Let the freewill offerings of my mouth please you, O LORD; * and teach me your judgments.

109 My life is always in my hand, *

yet I do not forget your law.

110 The ungodly have laid a snare for me, *

yet I have not strayed from your commandments.

111 Your testimonies have I claimed as my heritage for ever, * and why? They are the very joy of my heart.

112 I have applied my heart to fulfill your statutes always, * even unto the end.

> Iniquos odio habui SAMEKH

113 I hate those who are double-minded, *

but your law do I love.

114 You are my defense and shield, *

and my trust is in your word. 115 Away from me, you wicked. *

I will keep the commandments of my God.

116 Establish me according to your word, that I may live, * and let me not be disappointed in my hope.

117 Hold me up, and I shall be safe; *

indeed, my delight shall be ever in your statutes.

118 You have trodden down all those who depart from your statutes, * for they only imagine deceit.

119 You put away all the ungodly of the earth like dross; *

therefore I love your testimonies.

120 My flesh trembles for fear of you, *

and I am afraid of your judgments.

Feci judicium AYIN

121 I have done that which is lawful and right; *

O give me not over to my oppressors.

122 Be surety for your servant's good; *

O let not the arrogant oppress me.

123 My eyes have wasted away with looking for your salvation, * and for the word of your righteousness.

124 O deal with your servant according to your loving mercy, *

and teach me your statutes.

125 I am your servant; O grant me understanding, * that I may know your testimonies.

126 It is time for you, O LORD, to act, * for they have broken your law.

For I love your commandments above all things, * more than gold and precious stones.

¹²⁸ Therefore I hold all your commandments to be right, * and all false ways I utterly abhor.

Mirabilia PE

129 Your testimonies are wonderful; * therefore does my soul keep them.

when your word goes forth it gives light * and understanding to the simple.

131 I opened my mouth, and drew in my breath, * for my delight was in your commandments.

O look upon me, and be merciful unto me, * as you always do for those who love your Name.

order my steps according to your word, * and so shall no wickedness have dominion over me.

O deliver me from those who deal wrongfully, and so shall I keep your commandments.

Show the light of your countenance upon your servant, * and teach me your statutes.

136 My eyes gush out water *

because of those who do not keep your law.

Justus es, Domine SADHE

Righteous are you, O LORD, * and true are your judgments.

138 The testimonies that you have commanded * are exceedingly righteous and true.

139 My zeal has even consumed me, *

because my enemies have forgotten your words.

Your word is tested to the uttermost, * and therefore your servant loves it.

141 I am small, and of no reputation, *

yet I do not forget your commandments.

142 Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, * and your law is the truth.

143 Trouble and heaviness have taken hold of me, * yet my delight is in your commandments.

The righteousness of your testimonies is everlasting; * O grant me understanding, and I shall live.

DAY 26: EVENING PRAYER

Clamavi in toto corde meo QOPH 145 I call with my whole heart. *

Hear me, O LORD; I will keep your statutes.

146 Even unto you do I call; *

help me, and I shall keep your testimonies.

147 Early in the morning do I cry unto you, * for in your word is my trust.

148 My eyes open before the night watches, * that I may meditate on your words.

- Hear my voice, O LORD, according to your loving-kindness; * give me life according to your judgments.
- 150 They draw nigh who in malice persecute me, * and are far from your law.
- 151 Be near at hand, O LORD, *

for all your commandments are true.

152 Concerning your testimonies, I have known long ago * that you have founded them for ever.

Vide humilitatem RESH

153 O consider my adversity and deliver me, * for I do not forget your law.

Plead my cause and deliver me; *

give me life according to your word.

155 Salvation is far from the ungodly, *

for they do not regard your statutes.

156 Great is your mercy, O LORD; *

give me life according to your judgments.

157 Many there are who trouble me and persecute me, * yet I do not swerve from your testimonies.

158 It grieves me when I see the transgressors, * because they do not keep your law.

159 Consider, O LORD, how I love your commandments; * O give me life according to your loving-kindness.

160 Your word is true from everlasting; *

all the judgments of your righteousness endure for evermore.

Principes persecuti sunt

Princes have persecuted me without a cause, * but my heart stands in awe of your word.

162 I am as glad of your word *

as one who finds great spoils.

163 As for lies, I hate and abhor them, * but your law do I love.

164 Seven times a day do I praise you, * because of your righteous judgments.

¹⁶⁵ Great is the peace they have who love your law * and find in it no stumbling block.

166 LORD, I have looked for your saving health * and have done your commandments.

167 My soul has kept your testimonies, * and I have loved them exceedingly.

¹⁶⁸ I have kept your commandments and testimonies, * for all my ways are before you.

Appropinquet deprecatio
TAW

169 Let my complaint come before you, O LORD; * give me understanding, according to your word.

170 Let my supplication come before you; * deliver me, according to your word.

171 My lips shall pour forth your praise, * when you have taught me your statutes.

172 Surely my tongue shall sing of your word, * for all your commandments are righteous.

173 Let your hand be strong to help me, * for I have chosen your commandments.

174 I have longed for your saving health, O LORD, * and in your law is my delight.

O let my soul live, and it shall praise you; * and let your judgments help me.

¹⁷⁶ I have gone astray like a sheep that is lost; *
O seek your servant, for I do not forget your commandments.

DAY 27: MORNING PRAYER

120

Ad Dominum

- When I was in trouble I called upon the LORD, * and he hearkened to my calling.
- 2 Deliver my soul, O LORD, from lying lips * and from a deceitful tongue.
- What reward shall be given or done unto you, O false tongue? *
 Even mighty and sharp arrows, with hot burning coals.
- Woe is me, that I am constrained to dwell in Meshech, * and to have my habitation among the tents of Kedar.
- My soul has long dwelt among those * who are enemies of peace.
- I labor for peace, but when I speak to them of it, * they make themselves ready for battle.

121

Levavi oculos

- I will lift up my eyes unto the hills; * from whence comes my help?
- 2 My help comes from the LORD, * who has made heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved, * and he who keeps you will not sleep.
- Behold, he who keeps Israel * shall neither slumber nor sleep.

- 5 The LORD himself is your keeper; * the LORD is your defense upon your right hand,
- 6 So that the sun shall not burn you by day, * neither the moon by night.
- 7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; * indeed, it is he who shall keep your soul.
- 8 The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in, * from this time forth for evermore.

122

Lætatus sum

- I was glad when they said unto me, *
 "We will go into the house of the LORD."
- 2 Now our feet are standing * within your gates, O Jerusalem.
- Jerusalem is built as a city * that is at unity in itself.
- ⁴ For there the tribes go up, even the tribes of the LORD, * as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks unto the Name of the LORD.
- 5 For there is the throne of judgment, * even the throne of the house of David.
- 6 O pray for the peace of Jerusalem; * they shall prosper that love you.
- Peace be within your walls *
 - and plenteousness within your palaces.
- 8 For my brethren and companions' sakes, * I will wish you prosperity.
- Indeed, because of the house of the LORD our God, * I will seek to do you good.

123

Ad te levavi oculos meos

- 1 Unto you I lift up my eyes, * you who are enthroned in the heavens.
- Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, * and as the eyes of a maiden to the hand of her mistress,
- 3 Even so our eyes wait upon the LORD our God, * until he show us his favor.
- ⁴ Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us, * for we have suffered more than enough contempt.
- 5 Long has our soul suffered the scorn of the wealthy * and the spitefulness of the proud.

124

Nisi quia Dominus

- If the LORD himself had not been on our side, now may Israel say: *
 if the LORD himself had not been on our side, when men rose up against us,
- 2 Then would they have swallowed us up alive, * when they were so wrathfully displeased with us;

- Then the waters would have drowned us, and the torrent gone over us; * then the raging waters would have gone clean over us.
- 4 But praised be the LORD, *

who has not given us over to be prey for their teeth.

- We escaped like a bird out of the snare of the fowler; * the snare is broken, and we have been delivered.
- 6 Our help is in the Name of the LORD, *

the maker of heaven and earth.

125

Qui confidunt

- Those who put their trust in the LORD shall be like Mount Zion, * which cannot be moved, but stands fast for ever.
- 2 The hills stand about Jerusalem *

even as the LORD stands round about his people, from this time forth for evermore.

- For the scepter of the ungodly shall not rest upon the land allotted to the righteous, * lest the righteous put forth their hand to do wickedness.
- 4 Do good, O LORD, unto those who are good, * unto those who are good and true of heart.
- As for those who turn aside to their own wicked ways, the LORD shall lead them away with the evildoers; * but peace shall be upon Israel.

DAY 27: EVENING PRAYER

126

In convertendo

When the LORD overturned the captivity of Zion, *

then were we like those who dream.

- Then was our mouth filled with laughter * and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- 3 Then they said among the nations, *

"The LORD has done great things for them."

- Indeed, the LORD has done great things for us already, * whereof we rejoice.
- 5 Overturn our captivity, O LORD, *

as when streams refresh the deserts of the south.

6 Those who sow in tears *

shall reap with songs of joy.

7 He who goes on his way weeping and bears good seed *

shall doubtless come again with joy, and bring his sheaves with him.

127

Nisi Dominus

- 1 Unless the LORD builds the house, *
 - their labor is in vain who build it.
- 2 Unless the LORD keeps the city, *

the watchman keeps vigil in vain.

It is in vain that you rise up early, and take rest so late, and eat the bread of toil, * for he gives to his beloved sleep.

- ⁴ Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, * and the fruit of the womb is a gift that comes from him.
- 5 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, * so are the children of one's youth.
- 6 Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; * he shall not be ashamed when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

128

Beati omnes

- Blessed are all those who fear the LORD * and walk in his ways.
- For you shall eat of the labors of your hands; * it shall be well with you, and happy you shall be.
- 3 Your wife shall be as a fruitful vine * upon the walls of your house,
- 4 Your children like the olive branches * round about your table.
- 5 Indeed, thus shall the man be blessed * who fears the LORD.
- 6 May the LORD bless you out of Zion; * may you see Jerusalem in prosperity all your life long.
- May you see your children's children, * and may there be peace upon Israel.

129

Sæpe expugnaverunt

- "Many a time have they fought against me from my youth on," * may Israel now say;
- ² "Indeed, many a time have they afflicted me from my youth on, * but they have not prevailed against me.
- The plowers plowed upon my back, * and made long furrows.
- 4 But the righteous LORD *

has hewn the snares of the ungodly in pieces."

- 5 Let them be ashamed and turned backward, * as many as hate Zion.
- 6 Let them be as the grass growing upon the housetops, * which withers before it grows up,
- Which does not fill the hand of the reaper, * neither the bosom of him who binds up the sheaves,
- 8 So that those who go by say not so much as, "The LORD prosper you. * We bless you in the Name of the LORD."

130

De profundis

- Out of the deep have I called unto you, O LORD; * Lord, hear my voice.
- O let your ears consider well * the voice of my supplications.
- 3 If you, LORD, were to mark what is done amiss, *

O Lord, who could abide it?

4 For there is mercy with you; *

therefore you shall be feared.

5 I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; *

in his word is my trust.

6 My soul waits for the Lord, *

more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.

- O Israel, trust in the LORD, for with the LORD there is mercy, * and with him is plenteous redemption;
- 8 And he shall redeem Israel *

from all their sins.

131

Domine, non est

O LORD, I am not haughty; *

I have no proud looks.

- I do not occupy myself with great matters, * or with things that are too high for me.
- But I have stilled and quieted my soul, like a weaned child upon his mother's breast; * so is my soul quieted within me.
- 4 O Israel, trust in the LORD *

from this time forth for evermore.

DAY 28: MORNING PRAYER

132

Memento, Domine

1 LORD, remember David, *

and all his tribulations,

2 How he swore unto the LORD, *

and vowed a vow unto the Almighty God of Jacob:

- 3 "I will not come within the tabernacle of my house, * nor climb up into my bed,
- 4 I will not allow my eyes to sleep, nor my eyelids to slumber, * neither the temples of my head to take any rest,
- 5 Until I find a place for the temple of the LORD, * a habitation for the mighty God of Jacob."
- 6 Lo, we heard of the ark at Ephrathah *

and found it in the wood.

7 We will go into his tabernacle, *

and fall low on our knees before his footstool.

- 8 Arise, O LORD, into your resting-place, * you and the ark of your strength.
- Let your priests be clothed with righteousness, * and let your saints sing with joy.
- 10 For your servant David's sake, *

turn not away the presence of your Anointed.

11 The LORD has made a faithful oath unto David, *

and he shall not shrink from it:

"Of the fruit of your body *

shall I set upon your throne.

- 13 If your children will keep my covenant, and my testimonies that I shall teach them, * their children also shall sit upon your throne for evermore."
- 14 For the LORD has chosen Zion for himself; *

he has longed for her to be his habitation:

15 "This shall be my rest for ever; *

here will I dwell, for I have a delight therein.

- ¹⁶ I will bless her provisions with increase, * and will satisfy her poor with bread.
- ¹⁷ I will clothe her priests with salvation, * and her saints shall rejoice and sing.
- There shall I make the horn of David flourish; *
 I have prepared a lantern for my Anointed.
- 19 As for his enemies, I shall clothe them with shame; * but upon his head shall his crown flourish."

133

Ecce, quam bonum!

- Behold, how good and joyful a thing it is * when brethren dwell together in unity.
- It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, * even Aaron's beard, and went down to the edges of his clothing,
- Like the dew of Hermon, * which falls upon the hills of Zion.
- 4 For there the LORD promised his blessing, * even life for evermore.

134

Ecce nunc

- Behold now, praise the LORD, * all you servants of the LORD,
- 2 You that stand by night in the house of the LORD, * even in the courts of the house of our God.
- 3 Lift up your hands in the sanctuary * and sing praises unto the LORD.
- 4 The LORD who made heaven and earth * give you blessing out of Zion.

135

Laudate Nomen

- O praise the LORD. Praise the Name of the LORD; * offer 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.
- O praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; * sing praises unto his Name, for it is lovely.
- ⁴ For the LORD has chosen Jacob for himself * and Israel for his own possession.
- For I know that the LORD is great, * and that our LORD is above all gods.

- Whatsoever the LORD pleases he does, in heaven and on earth, * in the seas and in all the deep places.
- He brings forth clouds from the ends of the earth * and sends forth lightning with the rain, bringing the wind out of his treasuries.
- 8 It was he who struck down the firstborn of Egypt, * both of man and beast.
- 9 He sent signs and wonders into the midst of you, O land of Egypt, * against Pharaoh and all his servants.
- 10 He smote many nations, * and slew mighty kings:
- Sihon king of the Amorites, and Og the king of Bashan, * and all the kingdoms of Canaan.
- And he gave their land to be an inheritance, * an inheritance for Israel his people.
- 13 Your Name, O LORD, endures for ever; *

so does your renown, O LORD, from one generation to another.

- 14 For the LORD will avenge his people * and have compassion upon his servants.
- As for the idols of the nations, they are but silver and gold, * the work of human hands.
- 16 They have mouths, but they speak not; * eyes have they, but they see not;
- 17 They have ears, and yet they hear not, * neither is there any breath in their mouths.
- 18 Those who make them are like them, *
- and so are all who put their trust in them.
 Praise the LORD, O house of Israel; *
- praise the LORD, O house of Aaron.
- 20 Praise the LORD, O house of Levi; * you who fear the LORD, praise the LORD.
- 21 Praised be the LORD from Zion, *
 who dwells in Jerusalem. Praise the LORD.

DAY 28: EVENING PRAYER

136

Confitemini

- O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is gracious, * for his mercy endures for ever.
- O give thanks unto the God of all gods, *
- for his mercy endures for ever.

 3 O give thanks unto the Lord of all lords, *
 - for his mercy endures for ever.
- 4 Who alone does great wonders, *
 - for his mercy endures for ever.
- 5 Who by his excellent wisdom made the heavens, * for his mercy endures for ever.
- 6 Who laid out the earth above the waters, * for his mercy endures for ever.
- 7 Who made the great lights, *

for his mercy endures for ever;

8 The sun to rule the day, *

for his mercy endures for ever;

The moon and the stars to govern the night, *

for his mercy endures for ever.

Who struck down the firstborn of Egypt, *

for his mercy endures for ever;

11 And brought out Israel from among them, *

for his mercy endures for ever;

12 With a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, *

for his mercy endures for ever.

Who divided the Red Sea in two parts, *

for his mercy endures for ever;

14 And made Israel to pass through the midst of it, *

for his mercy endures for ever;

But as for Pharaoh and his host, he overthrew them in the Red Sea, *

for his mercy endures for ever.

16 Who led his people through the wilderness, *

for his mercy endures for ever.

17 Who smote great kings, *

for his mercy endures for ever;

¹⁸ And slew mighty kings, *

for his mercy endures for ever;

19 Sihon king of the Amorites, *

for his mercy endures for ever;

20 And Og the king of Bashan, *

for his mercy endures for ever;

21 And gave away their land for an inheritance, *

for his mercy endures for ever;

22 Even for an inheritance for Israel his servant, *

for his mercy endures for ever.

23 Who remembered us when we were in trouble, *

for his mercy endures for ever;

24 And delivered us from our enemies, *

for his mercy endures for ever.

25 Who gives food to all flesh, *

for his mercy endures for ever.

26 O give thanks unto the God of heaven, *

for his mercy endures for ever.

27 O give thanks unto the Lord of lords *

for his mercy endures for ever.

137

Super flumina

- By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept, *
 - when we remembered you, O Zion.

As for our harps, we hung them up *

upon the trees that are therein.

- For those who led us away captive required of us a song and melody in our heaviness: *
 "Sing us one of the songs of Zion."
- 4 How shall we sing the LORD's song *

in the land of our captivity?

5 If I forget you, O Jerusalem, *

let my right hand forget its skill.

- 6 If I do not remember you, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth, * if I prefer not Jerusalem above my dearest joy.
- Remember the children of Edom, O LORD, in the day of Jerusalem, * how they said, "Down with it, down with it, even to the ground."
- 8 O daughter of Babylon, wasted with misery, *

happy shall be the one who rewards you as you have done to us.

9 Blessed shall he be who takes your children * and throws them against the stones.

138

Confitebor tibi

- I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart; * even before the gods will I sing praises to you.
- 2 I will worship toward your holy temple and praise your Name, because of your loving-kindness and truth, *

for you have magnified your Name and your word above all things.

When I called upon you, you heard me *

and gave me increase of strength.

4 All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD, *

for they have heard the words of your mouth.

- 5 They shall sing of the ways of the LORD, * that great is the glory of the LORD.
- 6 For though the LORD be high, yet he has respect for the lowly; *
 - as for the proud, he beholds them from afar.

 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, yet shall you refresh me; *

you shall stretch forth your hand upon the furiousness of my enemies, and your right hand shall save me.

The LORD shall make good his loving-kindness toward me; * your mercy, O LORD, endures for ever; despise not the works of your own hands.

DAY 29: MORNING PRAYER

139

Domine, probasti

O LORD, you have searched me out and known me; *

you know my sitting down and my rising up; you understand my thoughts from afar.

- You examine my path and my places of rest, * and are acquainted with all my ways.
- Indeed, there is not a word on my tongue, * but you, O LORD, know it altogether.
- 4 You have enclosed me behind and before, * and have laid your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, * so excellent I cannot attain to it.
- 6 Where shall I go then from your Spirit, * or where shall I flee from your presence?
- 7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; *

if I make my bed in the Grave, 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 shall your hand lead me, *

and your right hand shall hold me.

 $_{\rm 10}~$ If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me," *

then shall my night be turned to day.

- Even the darkness is not dark to you, and the night is as clear as the day; * the darkness and the light to you are both alike.
- For you yourself made my inmost parts; *

you knit me together in my mother's womb.

- ¹³ I will give thanks to you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; * marvelous are your works, and my soul knows it very well.
- 14 My bones were not hidden from you *

when I was made in secret and fashioned in the depths of the earth.

- Your eyes beheld my substance, while I was yet unformed; * and in your book were all my members written,
- Which day by day were fashioned, *

when as yet there was none of them.

How dear to me are your thoughts, O God. *

How great is the sum of them!

- ¹⁸ If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand. * When I wake up, I am present with you.
- Oh, that you would slay the wicked, O God! *

Depart from me, you bloodthirsty men.

- For they speak unrighteously against you; * your enemies take your Name in vain.
- 21 Do I not hate those, O LORD, who hate you, *
- and do I not loathe those who rise up against you?

 22 Indeed, I hate them with a perfect hatred; *
 - they have become my own enemies.
- 23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; * try me and examine my thoughts.
- Look well if there be any way of wickedness in me, * and lead me in the way everlasting.

140

Eripe me, Domine

- Deliver me, O LORD, from evildoers, * and preserve me from the violent,
- 2 Who imagine evil in their hearts *

and stir up strife all the day long.

- They have sharpened their tongues like a serpent; * adders' poison is under their lips.
- 4 Keep me, O LORD, from the hands of the ungodly; *

preserve me from the violent, who have purposed to overthrow my steps.

- The proud have laid a snare for me and spread out a net with cords; * they have set traps in my way.
- 6 I said unto the LORD, "You are my God; *

hear the voice of my prayers, O LORD."

- O LORD God, the strength of my salvation, * you have covered my head in the day of battle.
- 8 Let not the ungodly have their desire, O LORD; *

let not their evil imagination prosper, lest they be too proud.

Let not those who encompass me lift up their heads; * let the evil of their own lips consume them. 10 Let hot burning coals fall upon them; *

let them be cast into the fire and into the pit, that they may never rise up again.

A slanderer shall not prosper upon the earth; *

evil shall hunt the wicked person to overthrow him.

12 I am sure that the LORD will avenge the poor *

and maintain the cause of the helpless.

Surely, the righteous shall give thanks unto your Name, * and the just shall continue in your sight.

DAY 29: EVENING PRAYER

141

Domine, clamavi

- LORD, I call upon you; hasten unto me, * and hear my voice when I cry unto you.
- Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, * and let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice.
- 3 Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth, *

and keep the door of my lips.

- 4 O let not my heart be inclined to any evil thing; *
 - let me not be occupied in ungodly works with those who work wickedness, lest I eat of such things as please them.
- 5 Rather, let the righteous smite me, *

and in their loving-kindness reprove me.

But let not the oil of the unrighteous anoint my head; *

while I live, I will pray against their wickedness.

7 Let their rulers be overthrown in stony places, *

that they may hear my words, for they are sweet.

Let their bones lie scattered at the mouth of the grave, * as when the ploughman scatters the earth in furrows.

9 But my eyes look unto you, O LORD God; *

in you is my refuge; O do not cast out my soul.

- 10 Keep me from the snare which they have laid for me, * and from the traps of the evildoers.
- Let the ungodly fall into their own nets together, * and let me ever escape them.

142

Voce mea ad Dominum

- 1 I cried unto the LORD with my voice; *
 - even unto the LORD I made my supplication.
- 2 I poured out my complaints before him, *

and showed him my trouble.

- When my spirit was in heaviness, you knew my path; *
 - in the way wherein I walked they had secretly laid a snare for me.
- 4 I looked also to my right hand *
 - and saw there was no one who would know me.
- 5 I had no place to flee to, *
 - and no one cared for my soul.
- 6 I cried out to you, O LORD, and said, *

"You are my refuge, and my portion in the land of the living."

Consider my complaint, *

for I am brought very low.

O deliver me from my persecutors, *

for they are too strong for me.

Bring me out of prison, that I may give thanks unto your Name. *

When you show me your loving-kindness, then shall the righteous gather around me.

143

Domine, exaudi

- Hear my prayer, O LORD, and consider my supplications; * hearken to me, for your truth and righteousness' sake.
- Enter not into judgment with your servant, *

for in your sight shall no one living be justified.

- For the enemy has persecuted my soul; he has smitten my life down to the ground; * he has laid me in the darkness, like those who have been long dead.
- Therefore my spirit faints within me, *

and my heart within me is desolate.

- Yet I remember the time past; I muse upon all your works; * indeed, I meditate on the works of your hands.
- I stretch forth my hands to you; *

my soul gasps for you as a thirsty land.

- Hear me, O LORD, and very soon, for my spirit grows faint; * hide not your face from me, lest I be like those who go down into the pit.
- O let me hear your loving-kindness in the morning, for in you have I put my trust; * show me the way that I should walk in, for I lift up my soul unto you.
- Deliver me, O LORD, from my enemies, *

for I flee unto you to hide me.

- Teach me to do the thing that pleases you, for you are my God; * let your loving Spirit lead me forth into the land of righteousness.
- 11 Revive me, O LORD, for your Name's sake; *

and for your righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble.

12 Of your goodness slay my enemies, *

and destroy all those who afflict my soul, for I am your servant.

DAY 30: MORNING PRAYER

144

Benedictus Dominus

Blessed be the LORD my strength, *

who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight,

- My hope and my fortress, my stronghold and deliverer, my defender in whom I trust, * who subdues the peoples under me.
- O LORD, what is man, that you have shown such respect to him, * or the son of man, that you so regard him?
- Man is like a thing of nought; *

his time passes away like a shadow.

- Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down; * touch the mountains, and they shall smoke.
- Cast forth your lightning and scatter them; *

shoot out your arrows and consume them.

7 Send down your hand from above; *

deliver me, and take me out of the great waters, from the hand of strangers,

Whose mouth talks of vain things, *

and whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood.

9 I will sing a new song unto you, O God, *

and sing praises unto you upon a ten-stringed lute.

10 You have given victory to kings, *

and have delivered David your servant from the peril of the sword.

Save me, and deliver me from the hand of strangers, *

whose mouth talks of vain things, and whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood;

12 That our sons may grow up as young plants, *

and that our daughters may be as the polished corners of the temple,

That our storehouses may be full and plenteous with all manner of grain, * that our sheep may bring forth thousands and ten thousands in our fields,

That our oxen may be strong to labor, that there be no decay, *

no leading into captivity, and no outcry in our streets.

15 Happy are the people of whom this is so; *

indeed, blessed are the people who have the LORD for their God.

145

Exaltabo te, Deus

- 1 I will magnify you, O God my King, *
 - and I will praise your Name for ever and ever.
- Every day will I give thanks to you, *

and praise your Name for ever and ever.

3 Great is the LORD, and most worthy to be praised; *

there is no end of his greatness.

One generation shall praise your works to another, *

and shall declare your power.

- 5 As for me, I will be talking of the glorious splendor of your majesty, * and of all your wondrous works.
- They shall speak of the might of your marvelous acts, * and I also will tell of your greatness.
- 7 The remembrance of your abundant goodness shall they proclaim, * and they shall sing of your righteousness.
- 8 The LORD is gracious and merciful, *

long-suffering, and of great kindness.

The LORD is loving to everyone, *

and his mercy is over all his works.

10 All your works praise you, O LORD, *

and your faithful servants give thanks to you.

11 They speak of the glory of your kingdom *

and talk of your power,

That your power may be known to the children of men, *

even the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, *

and your dominion endures throughout all ages.

14 The LORD upholds all those who fall *

and lifts up all those who are bowed down.

15 The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD, *

and you give them their food in due season.

- 16 You open wide your hand, *
 - and fill all things living with plenteousness.
- 17 The LORD is righteous in all his ways * and merciful in all his works.
- 18 The LORD is near to all those who call upon him, * to all who call upon him faithfully.
- 19 He will fulfill the desire of those who fear him; * he also will hear their cry and will help them.
- 20 The LORD preserves all those who love him, * but he will destroy all the ungodly.
- 21 My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD; * and let all flesh give thanks unto his holy Name for ever and ever.

146

Lauda, anima mea

- Praise the LORD, O my soul; *
 - while I live I will praise the LORD.
- Indeed, as long as I have my being, *
- I will sing praises unto my God.

 2. Put not your trust in princes, nor in any of
- Put not your trust in princes, nor in any child of man, * for there is no help in them.
- For when one breathes his last, he shall return again to the earth, * and in that day all his thoughts perish.
- 5 Blessed is the one who has the God of Jacob for his help * and whose hope is in the LORD his God,
- Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is therein; * who keeps his promise for ever;
- Who does right to those who suffer wrong; * and who feeds the hungry.
- 8 The LORD sets prisoners free; *
- the LORD gives sight to the blind.

 The LORD helps those who have fallen; *
 - the LORD loves the righteous.
- The LORD cares for the strangers in the land; he defends the fatherless and widow; * but the way of the ungodly he makes crooked.
- 11 The LORD shall be King for evermore, *
 - even your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Praise the LORD.

DAY 30 : EVENING PRAYER

147

Laudate Dominum

- Praise the LORD, for it is a good thing to sing praises unto our God; * indeed, a joyful and pleasant thing it is to be thankful.
- ² The LORD builds up Jerusalem, *
 - and gathers together the outcasts of Israel.
- 3 He heals those who are broken in heart, * and binds up their wounds.
- 4 He counts the number of the stars, * and calls them all by their names.

5 Great is our Lord, and great is his power; * indeed, his wisdom is infinite.

6 The LORD lifts up the meek, *

and brings the ungodly down to the ground.

O sing unto the LORD with thanksgiving; * sing praises with the harp unto our God,

Who covers the heavens with clouds, and prepares rain for the earth, * and makes the grass to grow upon the mountains, and plants for the use of men,

9 Who gives food to the cattle *

and feeds the young ravens that call upon him.

He has no pleasure in the strength of a horse; * neither does he delight in any man's strength.

But the LORD's delight is in those who fear him * and put their trust in his mercy.

12 Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem; * praise your God, O Zion.

13 For he has made strong the bars of your gates * and has blessed your children within you.

14 He makes peace in your borders *

and fills you with the finest of wheat.

15 He sends forth his commandment upon the earth, * and his word runs very swiftly.

16 He gives snow like wool *

and scatters the white frost like ashes.

17 He casts forth his ice like crumbs; *

who is able to abide his frost?

18 He sends out his word and melts them; * he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.

19 He declares his word unto Jacob, *

his statutes and ordinances unto Israel.

 $_{\rm 20}\,$ He has not dealt so with other nations; *

neither have they knowledge of his laws. Praise the LORD.

148

Laudate Dominum

- Praise the LORD. O praise the LORD of heaven; * praise him in the heights.
- 2 Praise him, all you angels of his; * praise him, all his host.

Praise him, sun and moon; *

praise him, all you stars of light.

4 Praise him, all you highest heavens, *

and you waters that are above the heavens.

5 Let them praise the Name of the LORD, *

for he spoke the word, and they were made; he commanded, and they were created.

6 He has made them stand fast for ever and ever; *

he has given them a law which shall not be broken.

7 Praise the LORD upon earth, *

you sea monsters and all deeps;

8 Fire and hail, snow and fog, *

wind and storm, fulfilling his word;

9 Mountains and all hills, *

fruitful trees and all cedars;

10 Beasts and all cattle, *

creeping things and birds of the air;

- Kings of the earth and all peoples, * princes and all rulers of the world;
- 12 Young men and maidens, *

old men and children together.

13 Let them praise the Name of the LORD, *

for his Name only is excellent, and his praise above heaven and earth.

¹⁴ He shall exalt the horn of his people; all his faithful shall praise him, * the children of Israel, the people who are near him. Praise the LORD.

149

Cantate Domino

- Praise the LORD. O sing unto the LORD a new song; * let the congregation of the faithful praise him.
- Let Israel rejoice in the one who made him, * and let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.
- Let them praise his Name in the dance; * let them sing praises unto him with timbrel and harp.
- 4 For the LORD has pleasure in his people * and gives victory to those who are oppressed.
- 5 Let the faithful be joyful with glory; * let them rejoice upon their beds.
- 6 Let the praises of God be in their mouth * and a two-edged sword in their hands,
- To inflict vengeance on the nations, * and to rebuke the peoples,
- 8 To bind their kings in chains, * and their nobles with links of iron,
- That they may execute judgment upon them, as it is written; * this is the honor of all his servants. Praise the LORD.

150

Laudate Dominum

- Praise the LORD. Praise God in his holiness; * praise him in the firmament of his power.
- 2 Praise him for his mighty acts; *

praise him for his excellent greatness.

- 3 Praise him with the sound of the trumpet; * praise him upon the lute and harp.
- 4 Praise him with the timbrels and dances; * praise him upon the strings and pipe.
- 5 Praise him with the resounding cymbals; * praise him with the loud cymbals.
- 6 Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. * O praise the LORD.