**PSALM 88**

Misericordias Domini.

*The perpetuity of the church of Christ, in consequence of the promise of God: which, notwithstanding, God permits her to suffer sometimes most grievous afflictions.*

**1** Of understanding, for Ethan the Ezrahite.

**2** The mercies of the Lord I will sing for ever. I will shew forth thy truth with my mouth to generation and generation.

**3** For thou hast said: Mercy shall be built up for ever in the heavens: thy truth shall be prepared in them.

**4** I have made a covenant with my elect: I have sworn to David my servant:

**5** Thy seed will I settle for ever. And I will build up thy throne unto generation and generation.

**6** The heavens shall confess thy wonders, O Lord: and thy truth in the church of the saints.

**7** For who in the clouds can be compared to the Lord: or who among the sons of God shall be like to God?

**8** God, who is glorified in the assembly of the saints: great and terrible above all them that are about him.

**9** O Lord God of hosts, who is like to thee? thou art mighty, O Lord, and thy truth is round about thee.

**10** Thou rulest the power of the sea: and appeasest the motion of the waves thereof.

**11** Thou hast humbled the proud one, as one that is slain: with the arm of thy strength thou hast scattered thy enemies.

**12** Thine are the heavens, and thine is the earth: the world and the fulness thereof thou hast founded:

**13** the north and the sea thou hast created. Thabor and Hermon shall rejoice in thy name:

**14** thy arm is with might. Let thy hand be strengthened, and thy right hand exalted:

**15** justice and judgment are the preparation of thy throne. Mercy and truth shall go before thy face:

**16** blessed is the people that knoweth jubilation. They shall walk, O Lord, in the light of thy countenance:

**17** and in thy name they shall rejoice all the day, and in thy justice they shall be exalted.

**18** For thou art the glory of their strength: and in thy good pleasure shall our horn be exalted.

**19** For our protection is of the Lord, and of our king the holy one of Israel.

**20** Then thou spokest in a vision to thy saints, and saidst: I have laid help upon one that is mighty, and have exalted one chosen out of my people.

**21** I have found David my servant: with my holy oil I have anointed him.

**22** For my hand shall help him: and my arm shall strengthen him.

**23** The enemy shall have no advantage over him: nor the son of iniquity have power to hurt him.

**24** And I will cut down his enemies before his face; and them that hate him I will put to flight.

**25** And my truth and my mercy shall be with him: and in my name shall his horn be exalted.

**26** And I will set his hand in the sea; and his right hand in the rivers.

**27** He shall cry out to me: Thou art my father: my God, and the support of my salvation.

**28** And I will make him my firstborn, high above the kings of the earth.

**29** I will keep my mercy for him for ever: and my covenant faithful to him.

**30** And I will make his seed to endure for evermore: and his throne as the days of heaven.

**31** And if his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments:

**32** If they profane my justices: and keep not my commandments:

**33** I will visit their iniquities with a rod : and their sins with stripes.

**34** But my mercy I will not take away from him: nor will I suffer my truth to fail.

**35** Neither will I profane my covenant: and the words that proceed from my mouth I will not make void.

**36** Once have I sworn by my holiness: I will not lie unto David:

**37** his seed shall endure for ever.

**38** And his throne as the sun before me: and as the moon perfect for ever, and a faithful witness in heaven.

**39** But thou hast rejected and despised: thou hast been angry with thy anointed.

**40** Thou hast overthrown the covenant of thy servant: thou hast profaned his sanctuary on the earth.

**41** Thou hast broken down all his hedges: thou hast made his strength fear.

**42** All that pass by the way have robbed him: he is become a reproach to his neighbours.

**43** Thou hast set up the right hand of them that oppress him: thou hast made all his enemies to rejoice.

**44** Thou hast turned away the help of his sword; and hast not assisted him in battle.

**45** Thou hast made his purification to cease: and thou hast cast his throne down to the ground.

**46** Thou hast shortened the days of his time: thou hast covered him with confusion.

**47** How long, O Lord, turnest thou away unto the end? shall thy anger burn like fire?

**48** Remember what my substance is: for hast thou made all the children of men in vain?

**49** Who is the man that shall live, and not see death: that shall deliver his soul from the hand of hell?

**50** Lord, where are thy ancient mercies, according to what thou didst swear to David in thy truth?

**51** Be mindful, O Lord, of the reproach of thy servants (which I have held in my bosom) of many nations:

**52** Wherewith thy enemies have reproached, O Lord; wherewith they have reproached the change of thy anointed.

**53** Blessed be the Lord for evermore. So be it. So be it.