**PSALM 54**

Exaudi, Deus.

*A prayer of a just man under persecution from the wicked. It agrees to Christ persecuted by the Jews, and betrayed by Judas.*

**1** Unto the end, in verses, understanding for David.

**2** Hear, O God, my prayer, and despise not my supplication:

**3** be attentive to me and hear me. I am grieved in my exercise; and am troubled,

**4** at the voice of the enemy, and at the tribulation of the sinner. For they have cast iniquities upon me: and in wrath they were troublesome to me.

**5** My heart is troubled within me: and the fear of death is fallen upon me.

**6** Fear and trembling are come upon me: and darkness hath covered me.

**7** And I said: Who will give me wings like a dove, and I will fly and be at rest?

**8** Lo, I have gone far off flying away; and I abode in the wilderness.

**9** I waited for him that hath saved me from pusillanimity of spirit, and a storm.

**10** Cast down, O Lord, and divide their tongues; for I have seen iniquity and contradiction in the city.

**11** Day and night shall iniquity surround it upon its walls: and in the midst thereof are labour,

**12** and injustice. And usury and deceit have not departed from its streets.

**13** For if my enemy had reviled me, I would verily have borne with it. And if he that hated me had spoken great things against me, I would perhaps have hidden my self from him.

**14** But thou a man of one mind, my guide, and my familiar,

**15** Who didst take sweetmeats together with me: in the house of God we walked with consent.

**16** Let death come upon them, and let them go down alive into hell. For there is wickedness in their dwellings: in the midst of them.

**17** But I have cried to God: and the Lord will save me.

**18** Evening and morning, and at noon I will speak and declare: and he shall hear my voice.

**19** He shall redeem my soul in peace from them that draw near to me: for among many they were with me.

**20** God shall hear, and the Eternal shall humble them. For there is no change with them, and they have not feared God:

**21** he hath stretched forth his hand to repay. They have defiled his covenant,

**22** they are divided by the wrath of his countenance, and his heart hath drawn near. His words are smoother than oil, and the same are darts.

**23** Cast thy care upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: he shall not suffer the just to waver for ever.

**24** But thou, O God, shalt bring them down into the pit of destruction. Bloody and deceitful men shall not live out half their days; but I will trust in thee, O Lord.