

OFFICE OF READINGS

alt. The word of the Lord is a
strong shield for all who put
their trust in him.

PSALM 18:31-51 I

As for God, his way is blameless,
the word of the Lord is pure.

He indeed is the shield
of all who trust in him.

For who is God but the Lord?
Who is a rock but our God?

It is God who girds me with strength,
and keeps my path free of blame.

My feet he makes swift as the deer's;
he has made me stand firm on the heights.

He has trained my hands for battle,
and my arms to bend the bronze bow.

Glory...

alt. Your strong right hand has
upheld me, Lord.

PSALM 18:31-51 II

You gave me your saving shield;
with your right hand, you gave me support
you bent down to make me great.

You lengthened my steps beneath me;
and my feet have never slipped.

I pursued and overtook my foes,
never turning back till they were slain.

I struck them so they could not rise;
they fell beneath my feet.

You girded me with strength for battle;
you made my enemies fall beneath me.

You made my foes take flight;
those who hated me I destroyed.

They cried out, but there was no one to save them,
cried to the Lord, but he did not answer.

I crushed them fine as dust before the wind,
trod them down like dirt in the streets.
From the feuds of the people you delivered me,
and put me at the head of the nations.
People unknown to me served me;
when they heard of me, they obeyed me.
Foreign nations came to me cringing;
foreign nations faded away.
Trembling, they came forth from their strongholds.
Glory...

alt. May the living God, my Savior,
be praised for ever.

PSALM 18:31-51 III

The Lord lives, and blest be my Rock!
May the God of my salvation be exalted,
the God who gives me redress
and subdues the peoples under me.
You saved me from my furious foes;
you set me above my assailants;
you saved me from the violent man.
So I will praise you, Lord, among the nations
to your name will I sing a psalm.
The Lord gives great victories to his king,
and shows merciful love for his anointed,
for David and his seed forever.
Glory...

Open my eyes, Lord, that I may see.
— The wonders of your law.

THURSDAY
LAUDS

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alt. Awake, lyre and harp, with
praise let us awake the dawn.

PSALM 57

Have mercy on me, God, have mercy,
for in you my soul has taken refuge.

In the shadow of your wings I take refuge,
till the storms of destruction pass by.

I call to you, God the Most High,
to God who provides for me.

May he send from heaven and save me,
and put to shame those who assail me.
May God send his loving mercy and faithfulness.

My soul lies down among lions,
who would devour human prey.

Their teeth are spears and arrows,
their tongue a sharpened sword.

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens,
your glory over all the earth!

They laid down a net for my steps;
my soul was bowed down.

They dug a pit in my path,
but fell in it themselves.

My heart is ready, O God;
my heart is ready.

I will sing, I will sing your praise.
Awake, my soul!

Awake, O lyre and harp!
I will awake the dawn.

I will praise you, Lord, among the peoples,
among the nations sing psalms to you,
for your mercy reaches to the heavens,
and your truth to the skies.

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;
may your glory shine on all the earth!

Glory...

alt. My people, says the Lord,
will be filled with my blessings.

JEREMIAH 31:10-14

Hear the word of the Lord, O nations;
declare it to the distant isles and say,

“He who scattered Israel will gather him
and guard him as a shepherd his flock.”

For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,
redeemed him from a hand too strong for him.

They shall come and sing praise on the heights of Zion,
come streaming to the bounty of the Lord

to the grain and the wine and the oil,
to the yearlings of the flock and the herd.

Their soul shall be like a watered garden,
and they shall languish no more.

Then the maiden shall rejoice in a dance,
the young men and old together.

“I will change their mourning into joy;
I will console them, giving gladness for sorrow

I will fill with rich fare the soul of my priests,
and my people shall be filled with my bounty.

Glory...

alt. The Lord is great and worthy
to be praised in the city of our

PSALM 48

Great is the Lord and highly to be praised
in the city of our God.

His holy mountain rises in beauty,
the joy of all the earth.

Mount Zion, in the heart of the North,
the city of the Mighty King!

God, in the midst of its citadels,
has shown himself its stronghold.

Behold! the kings assembled;
together they advanced.

They saw; at once they marveled;
dismayed, they fled in fear.

A trembling seized them there,
anguish, like pangs in giving birth,

As when the east wind shatters
the ships of Tarshish.

As we have heard, so we have seen
in the city of our God,

in the city of the Lord of hosts,
which God establishes forever.

Your merciful love, O God,
we ponder in your temple.

Your praise, O God, like your name,
reaches the ends of the earth.

Your right hand is filled with saving justice.
Mount Zion rejoices.

The daughters of Judah rejoice
at the sight of your judgments.

Walk through Zion, walk all around her;
count the number of her towers.

Consider all her ramparts;
examine her castles,

that you may tell the next generation
that such is our God,

our God forever and always.
He will guide us forever.

Glory...

alt. Let us serve the Lord in holiness, and he will save us from our enemies.

BENEDICTUS

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel:
for he has visited his people and redeemed them,
he has raised up for us a horn of salvation
in the House of David his servant,
as he spoke through the mouth of his holy ones,
his prophets from ages past:

To grant salvation from our foes,
and from the hand of all who hate us,
showing mercy to our fathers, †
remembering his holy covenant,
the oath he swore to Abraham our father;

To grant that, freed from the hand of our foes,
we may serve him without fear
in holiness and righteousness
all the days of our life.

And you, little child, will be called
the Prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord
to make ready his ways:

to grant knowledge of salvation to his people
by the forgiveness of their sins;

Through the tender mercy of our God,
the Dawn from on high will visit us,
to shine on those who sit in darkness, †
and those in the shadow of death;
to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen.