

THURSDAY  
OFFICE OF READINGS

53

alt. Lord, you are our savior; we  
will praise you for ever.

PSALM 44 I

We heard with our own ears, O God  
our forebears have declared to us  
the deeds you did in their days  
you yourself, in days long ago  
With your own hand you drove out the nations,  
but them you planted  
you brought affliction on the peoples  
but them you set free  
No sword of their own won the land  
no arm of their own brought them victory  
It was your right hand and your arm  
and the light of your face, for you loved them  
You are my king, O God  
you command the victories for Jacob  
Through you we beat down our foes  
In your name we trampled our aggressors  
For it was not in my bow that I trusted,  
nor yet was I saved by my sword:  
it was you who saved us from our foes;  
those who hate us, you put to shame.  
All day long our boast was in God,  
and we will praise your name forever.  
Glory...

alt. Spare us, O Lord; do not  
bring your own people into  
contempt.

## PSALM 44 II

Yet now you have rejected us, disgraced us;  
you no longer go forth with our armies.

You make us retreat from the foe;  
those who hate us plunder us at will.

You make us like sheep for the slaughter,  
and scatter us among the nations.

You sell your own people for nothing,  
and make no profit by the sale.

You make us the taunt of our neighbors,  
the mockery and scorn of those around us.

Among the nations you make us a byword  
among the peoples they shake their heads.

All day long my disgrace is before me;  
my face is covered with shame

at the voice of the taunter, the scoffer,  
at the sight of the foe and avenger.

Glory...

alt. Rise up, O Lord, and save us,  
for you are merciful

## PSALM 44 III

This befell us though we had not forgotten you,  
we were not false to your covenant.

We had not withdrawn our hearts;  
our feet had not strayed from your path.

Yet you have crushed us in a haunt of jackals,  
and covered us with the shadow of death.

Had we forgotten the name of our God,  
or stretched out our hands to a strange god,  
would not God have found this out,  
he who knows the secrets of the heart?

It is for you we are slain all day long,  
and are counted as sheep for the slaughter.

Awake, O Lord! Why do you sleep?  
Arise! Do not reject us forever.

Why do you hide your face,  
and forget our oppression and misery?

For our soul is brought low to the dust;  
our body lies prostrate on the earth.

Stand up and come to our help!  
Redeem us with your merciful love!

Glory...

Lord, to whom shall we go?  
—You have the words of eternal life.

WEEK II  
LAUDS

alt. Stir up your mighty power,  
Lord; come to our aid.

## PSALM 80

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
you who lead Joseph like a flock:  
enthroned on the cherubim, shine forth  
upon Ephraim, Benjamin, Manasseh.  
Rouse up your might and come to save us.  
Bring us back, O God;  
let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.  
How long, O Lord, God of hosts,  
will you be angry at the prayer of your people?  
You have fed them with tears for their bread,  
an abundance of tears for their drink.  
You have made us the taunt of our neighbors;  
our foes mock us among themselves.  
Bring us back, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.  
You brought a vine out of Egypt;  
you drove out the nations and planted it.  
Before it you cleared the ground;  
it took root and filled the land.  
The mountains were covered with its shadow,  
the cedars of God with its boughs.  
It stretched out its branches to the sea;  
to the River it stretched out its shoots.  
Then why have you broken down its walls?  
It is plucked by all who pass by the way.  
It is ravaged by the boar of the forest,  
devoured by the beasts of the field.  
God of hosts, turn again, we implore;  
look down from heaven and see.

Visit this vine and protect it,  
the stock your right hand has planted,  
the son you have claimed for yourself.

They have burnt it with fire and cut it down.  
May they perish at the frown of your face.

May your hand be on the man at your right hand,  
the son of man you have confirmed as your own.

And we shall never forsake you again;  
give us life that we may call upon your name.

Bring us back, O Lord God of hosts;  
let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.

Glory...

alt. The Lord has worked mar-  
vels for us; make it known to the  
ends of the world.

ISAIAH 12: 1-6

I give thanks to you, O Lord!  
For though you were angry with me,  
your anger turned back, and you consoled me.

Behold, God is my salvation!  
I will trust and will not be afraid,  
for the Lord is my strength and my praise,  
and he has been my salvation.

With joy will you draw water  
from the springs of salvation.

And you will say on that day:  
Give thanks to the Lord, invoke his name;  
make known among the peoples his deeds;  
proclaim that his name is exalted.

Sing to the Lord for he has wrought wonders;  
let this be known through all the earth.

Shout aloud and sing praise, you who dwell in Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Glory...

alt. Ring out your joy to God our strength.

## PSALM 81

Sing joyfully to God our strength,  
shout in triumph to the God of Jacob.

Raise a song and sound the timbrel,  
the sweet-sounding lyre with the harp;  
blow the trumpet at the new moon,  
when the moon is full, on our feast.

For this is a statute in Israel,  
a command of the God of Jacob.

He made it a decree for Joseph,  
when he went out from the land of Egypt.

A voice I did not know said to me:  
“I freed your shoulder from the burden;  
your hands were freed from the builder's basket.  
You called in distress and I delivered you.

I answered, concealed in the thunder;  
at the waters of Meribah I tested you.

Listen, my people, as I warn you.  
O Israel, if only you would heed!

Let there be no strange god among you,  
nor shall you worship a foreign god.

I am the Lord your God,  
who brought you up from the land of Egypt  
Open wide your mouth, and I will fill it.

But my people did not heed my voice,  
and Israel would not obey me.

So I left them in their stubbornness of heart,  
to follow their own designs.

O that my people would heed me,  
that Israel would walk in my ways!

At once I would subdue their foes,  
turn my hand against their enemies.

Those who hate the Lord would cringe before him,  
and their fate would last forever.

But Israel I would feed with finest wheat,  
and satisfy with honey from the rock.”

Glory...