Ps 54

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| Fr. Lazarus | Edited | Coverdale | Psalter according 70 | Psalter for prayer | NETS | Brenton | OSB |
| 1 (A Prayer of Contemplation. By David) | 1 (For the end; A Prayer of Contemplation. By David) | N/A |  | Unto the end, among the songs of instruction for Asaph, a Psalm. | Regarding completion. Among hymns. Of understanding. Pertaining to Dauid. | For the end, among Hymns of instruction by David. | For the End; in hymns; concerning understanding; by David. |
| 2 Give ear, O God, to my prayer,  and despise not my petition. | 2 Give ear, O God, to my prayer,  and do not despise my petition. | Hear my prayer, O God, and hide not thyself from my petition. |  | HEAR my prayer, O God, and despise not my petition. | Give ear, O God, to my prayer,  and do not disdain my petition. | Hearken, O God, to my prayer; and disregard not my supplication. | Give ear to my prayer, O God,  And do not despise my supplication; |
| 3 Attend to me and hear me.  I am grieved by my trial, and am troubled, | 3 Attend to me and hear me.  I am grieved by my trial, and am troubled, |  |  | Take heed unto me, and hear me; I mourned in my grief, and was vexed | Attend to me, and listen to me;  I was vexed in my pondering and was troubled | Attend to me, and hearken to me: I was grieved in my meditation, and troubled; | Attend to me, and hear me.  I am vexed in my prayer, and troubled |
| 4 because of the voice of the enemy,  and because of the oppression of the sinner;  for they have cast a slur upon me,  and have boiled with anger against me. | 4 by of the voice of the enemy,  and by of the oppression of the sinner;  because they have turned their lawlessness upon me,  and were indignant against me in wrath. | Take heed unto me, and hear me, how I mourn in my  prayer, and am vexed. The enemy crieth so, and the ungodly  cometh on so fast; for they are minded to do me some mischief,  so maliciously are they set against me. |  | By the voice of the enemy, and by the oppression of the sinner, for they minded to do me mischief; and have wrathfully set themselves against me. | by the noise of an enemy and by the affliction of a sinner,  because they tilted lawlessness against me,  and in wrath they kept being indignant at me. | because of the voice of the enemy, and because of the oppression of the sinner: for they brought iniquity against me, and were wrathfully angry with me. | By the enemy’s voice and by the sinner’s affliction;  For they turned their lawlessness upon me,  And in wrath they were indignant with me. |
| 5 My heart was troubled within me,  and fear of death fell upon me. | 5 My heart was troubled within me,  and death’s terror fell upon me. | My heart is disquieted within me, and the fear of death is  fallen upon me. |  | My heart is disquieted within me, and the fear of death is fallen upon me. | My heart was troubled within me,  and death’s terror fell upon me. | My heart was troubled within me; and the fear of death fell upon me. | My heart was troubled within me,  And the terror of death fell on me. |
| 6 Fear and trembling came upon me,  and darkness overwhelmed me. | 6 Fear and trembling came upon me,  and darkness covered me. | Fearfulness and trembling are come upon  me, and an horrible dread hath overwhelmed me. |  | Fearfulness and trembling are come upon me, and darkness hath covered me. | Fear and trembling came upon me,  and darkness covered me. | Fear and trembling came upon me, and darkness covered me. | Fear and trembling came upon me,  And the darkness covered me. |
| 7 And I said: ‘Who will give me wings like a dove,  and I will fly away and be at rest?’[[1]](#footnote-1) | 7 And I said, “Who will give me wings like a dove,  and I will fly away and be at rest?”[[2]](#footnote-2) | And I said,  O that I had wings like a dove! for then would I flee away, and  be at rest. |  | And I said, Who will give me wings like a dove’s? And I will fly away, and be at rest. | And I said, “Who will give me wings like a dove,  and I shall fly away and be at rest?” | And I said, O that I had wings as those of a dove! then would I flee away, and be at rest. | I said, “Who will give me wings like a dove,  And I will fly away, and be at rest? |
| 8 Lo, far have I fled,  and have camped in the desert. | 8 Behold, I became a fugitive far away,  and lodged in the wilderness. *(Pause)* | Lo, then would I get me away far off, and remain  in the wilderness. |  | Lo, I ran away far off, and dwelt in the wilderness. | Look, I became a fugitive far away,  and I lodged in the wilderness. *Interlude on strings* | Lo! I have fled afar off, and lodged in the wilderness. Pause. | Behold, I fled far away,  And lodged in the wilderness.”  (Pause) |
| 9 I waited for Him Who saves me  from faint-heartedness and from storm. | 9 I waited for the One Who saves me  from faintheartedness and from storm. | I would make haste to escape, because of  the stormy wind and tempest. |  | I waited for God, Who saveth me from faint-heartedness and from tempest. | I would welcome the one that would save me  from faintheartedness and tempest. | I waited for him that should deliver me from distress of spirit and tempest. | I wait for the One who saves me  From faintheartedness and storm. |
| 10 Drown their voices, O Lord, and divide their tongues,  for I see only iniquity and strife in the city. | 10 Drown their voices, O Lord, and confuse their speech,  for I see iniquity and strife in the city. | Destroy their tongues, O Lord, and divide them; for I  have spied unrighteousness and strife in the city. |  | Drown their voices, O Lord, and divide their tongues, for I have seen mischief and strife in the city. | Drown, O Lord, and confuse hteir speech,  because I saw lawlessness and dispute in the city. | Destroy, O Lord, and divide their tongues: for I have seen iniquity and gain saying in the city. | Drown them in the sea, O Lord, and divide their tongues;  For I see lawlessness and strife in the city. |
| 11 Day and night they make the round of its walls.  Iniquity and trouble are in the midst of it, | 11 Day and night it[[3]](#footnote-3) surrounds her upon her walls.  Iniquity and trouble are in the midst of it, | Day and  night they go about within the walls thereof; mischief also  and sorrow are in the midst of it. |  | Day and night they go about the walls thereof; mischief also and hardship are in the midst of it, and injustice, | Day and night it will encircle it as its walls;  lawlessness and trouble are within it, and injustice | Day and night he shall go round about it upon its walls: iniquity and sorrow and unrighteousness are in the midst of it; | Day and night, it shall surround her upon her walls;  Lawlessness and trouble and wrongdoing are in her midst; |
| 12 and injustice;  usury and fraud never leave its streets. | 12 and injustice;  usury and fraud never leave her streets. | Wickedness is therein; deceit  and guile go not out of her streets. |  | And neither usury nor fraud go out of its streets. | and usery and deceit did not leave its streets. | and usury and craft have not failed from its streets. | And usury and treachery  Have not ceased from her squares. |
| 13 For if an enemy had reproached me,  I could have borne it.  And if one who hated me had boasted against me,  I would have hidden myself from him. | 13 For if an enemy had reproached me,  I could have borne it;  and if one who hated me had boasted against me,  I would have hidden from him. | For it is not an open enemy that hath done me this dishonour;  for then I could have borne it. Neither was it mine adversary  that did magnify himself against me; for then peradventure  I would have hid myself from him. |  | For if an enemy had reviled me, I could have borne it; or if he that hateth me had blustered against me, then I would have hid myself from him. | Because if an enemy had reproached me,  I could have born it,  and if he that hates me had bragged against me,  I could have hidden form him. | For if an enemy had reproached me, I would have endured it; and if one who hated me had spoken vauntingly against me, I would have hid myself from him. | For if an enemy reviled me,  I would have endured it;  And if one hating me boasted against me,  I would have hidden from him. |
| 14 But it was you, a man my equal,  my sovereign, and my friend, | 14 But it was you, a man my equal,  my leader, and my friend, | But it was even  thou, my companion, my guide, and mine own familiar  friend. |  | But it was even thou, a man of like mind, my guide, and my own familiar friend, | But it is you, my fellow human,  my leader and my familiar friend, | But thou, O man like minded, my guide, and my acquaintance, | But it was you, a man my equal,  My guide and my friend, |
| 15 who made sweet the food we shared together.  We walked to the house of God in harmony. | 15 who made sweet the food we shared together;  we walked in the house of God in harmony. | We took sweet counsel together, and walked in the  house of God as friends. |  | Who took sweet counsel with me at table; we walked in the house of God in concord. | who made food sweet together with me;  in the house of God we walked in harmony. | who in companionship with me sweetened our food: we walked in the house of God in concord. | Who together with me sweetened our meals;  In God’s house we walked in unity. |
| 16 Let death come upon them,  and let them go down alive to hell;  for evil is in their hearts and homes. | 16 Let death come upon them,  and let them go down alive into Hades;  for evils are in their hearts and homes. | Let death come hastily upon them, and let them go down  quick into hell; for wickedness is in their dwellings, and  among them. |  | Let death come upon them, and let them go down alive into hell; for wickedness is in their dwellings, and in their midst. | Let death come upon them,  and let them go down to Hades alive,  because evils are in their sojournings, in their midst. | Let death come upon them, and let them go down alive into Hades, for iniquity is in their dwellings, in the midst of them. | Let death come upon them,  And let them go down alive into Hades;  Because evils are in their dwellings, in the very midst of them. |
| 17 As for me, I cried to God,  and the Lord heard me. | 17 But I cried to God,  and the Lord heard me. | As for me, I will call upon God, and the Lord shall save me. |  | As for me, I called upon God, and the Lord heard me. | [But] I cried to God,  and the Lord listened to me. | I cried to God, and the Lord hearkened to me. | But I cried out to God,  And the Lord heard me. |
| 18 In the evening and morning and at noon  I will tell and declare my needs  and He will hear my voice. | 18 At evening and [at] morning and at noon  I will tell, I will declare,  and He will hear my voice. | In the evening, and morning, and at noonday will I pray, and  that instantly; and he shall hear my voice. |  | Evening, and morning, and noon-day will I call out, and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice. | Evening and morning and at noon I will recount;  I will declare,  and he will listen to my voice. | Evening, and morning, and at noon I will declare and make known my wants: and he shall hear my voice. | Evening and morning and midday, I shall tell;  I shall proclaim, and He will hear my voice. |
| 19 He will redeem my soul in peace  from those who come near me,  for they were in crowds about me. | 19 He will redeem my soul in peace  from those who come near me,  for they were in crowds around me. | It is he that hath  delivered my soul in peace from the battle that was against  me; for there were many with me. |  | He will deliver my soul in peace from them that draw nigh against me, for they were with me in crowds. | He will redeem my soul in peace  from those that reproach me,  because they were with me in great number [many things]. | He shall deliver my soul in peace from them that draw nigh to me: for they were with me in many cases. | He will redeem my soul in peace from those who draw near to me,  For they were with me in abundance. |
| 20 God will hear and will humble them,  He Who is before the ages. *(Pause)*  There is no change of heart for them,  for they do not fear God. | 20 God, He Who exists before the ages,  will hear and will humble them. *(Pause)*  There is no change of heart for them,  and they have not feared God. | Yea, even God, that endureth  for ever, shall hear me, and bring them down; for they  will not turn, nor fear God. |  | God will hear, and He that is before the ages shall humble them; there is no change with them, for they have not feared God. | God will listen and will humble them,  he who exists before the ages. *Interlude on strings*  For there is no change for them,  and they did not fear God. | God shall hear, and bring them low, even he that has existed from eternity. Pause.  For they suffer no reverse, and therefore they have not feared God. | God shall hear, and humble them,  He who exists before the ages.  (Pause)  For there is no change in them,  And they have not feared God. |
| 21 He has stretched out His hand to requite them.  They have profaned His covenant. | 21 He stretched out His hand to repay them;  they defiled His covenant. | He laid his hands upon such as be  at peace with him, and he broke his covenant. |  | He hath stretched forth His hand for retribution; they have defiled His covenant. | He stretched out his hand when he paid back.  They violated his covenant. | He has reached forth his hand for retribution; they have profaned his covenant. | He stretched forth His hand in punishment;  They defiled His covenant. |
| 22 They were divided by the wrath of His countenance,  and their hearts drew near.  Their words are smoother than oil,  and yet they are swords. | 22 They were scattered by the wrath of His face,  and His heart drew near;  his words were smoother than oil,  and yet they are arrows. | The words of  his mouth were softer than butter, having war in his heart;  his words were smoother than oil, and yet be they very  swords. |  | They were divided at the wrath of His countenance, and their hearts drew nigh; their words were smoother than oil, and yet are they arrows. | They were divided due to the anger of his face,  and his heart drew near;  his words became smoother than oil,  and they are missiles. | They were scattered at the anger of his countenance, and his heart drew nigh them. His words were smoother than oil, yet are they darts. | They were scattered by the wrath of His face,  And His heart drew near;  His words were softened above oil,  And they are arrows. |
| 23 Cast your care on the Lord,[[4]](#footnote-4)  and He will support you.  He will never let a just man stumble. | 23 Cast your care on the Lord,[[5]](#footnote-5)  and He will support you.  He will never allow the righteous to be shaken. | O cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall nourish  thee, and shall not suffer the righteous to fall for ever. |  | O cast thy care upon the Lord, and He shall nourish thee; He shall never suffer the righteous to stumble. | Cast your care on the Lord,  and he himself will nurture you;  he will never give shaking to him who is righteous. | Cast thy care upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee; he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved. | Cast your care upon the Lord,  And He shall support you;  He will never allow the righteous to be moved. |
| 24 But You, O God, will bring them  into the pit of destruction.  Men of blood and deceit  will not live half their days.  But I will trust in You, O Lord. | 24 But You, O God, will bring them  down into the pit of corruption;  Men of blood and treachery  will not live half their days.  But I will hope in You, O Lord. | And as  for them, thou, O God, shalt bring them into the pit of destruction.  The bloodthirsty and deceitful men shall not live  out half their days; nevertheless, my trust shall be in thee, O  Lord. |  | But Thou, O God, shalt bring them into the pit of destruction; the blood-thirsty and deceitful men shall not live out half their days, but I shall trust in Thee, O Lord. | But as for you, O God, you will bring them down  into a well of corruption;  men of blood and treachery  shall not live out half their days.  But as for me, I will hope in you, O Lord. | But thou, O God, shalt bring them down to the pit of destruction; bloody and crafty men shall not live out half their days; but I will hope in thee, O Lord. | But You, O God, will bring them down into the pit of decay;  Men of blood and deceit  Shall not live even half their days.  But I will hope in You, O Lord. |

1. I will fly by activity and be at rest by contemplation and humility.’ (St. John Climacus, Ladder 4:1) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. I will fly by activity and be at rest by contemplation and humility.’ (St. John Climacus, Ladder 4:1) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [JS] “it” refers to the iniquity and strife. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. cp. 1 Peter 5:7. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. cp. 1 Peter 5:7. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)