Ps 88

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| Fr. Lazarus | Edited | AI | Psalter according 70 | Psalter for prayer | NETS | Brenton | OSB |
| 1 (Of contemplation. By Ethan the Israelite) |  |  |  | Of instruction, by Ethan the Ezrahite. | Of understanding. Pertaining to Aithan the Israelite. | A Psalm of instruction for Ætham the Israelite. | Concerning understanding; for Ethan the Israelite. |
| 2 I will sing of Your mercies, O Lord, for ever;  I will proclaim Your truth with my mouth to all ages. |  |  |  | I SHALL sing of Thy mercy, O Lord, for ever; from one generation to another I will proclaim Thy truth with my mouth. | Of your mercies, O Lord, I will sing forever;  to generation and generation I will proclaim your truth with my mouth, | I will sing of thy mercies, O Lord, for ever: I will declare thy truth with my mouth to all generations. | O Lord, I will sing of Your mercies forever;  I will proclaim Your truth with my mouth from generation to generation; |
| 3 For You have said: ‘Mercy shall be built up for ever.’[[1]](#footnote-1)  Your truth is ready in the heavens. |  |  |  | For Thou hast said, Mercy shall be set up for ever; Thy truth shall be stablished in the heavens. | because you said, “Forever mercy will be built.”  In the heavens your truth will be prepared. | For thou hast said, Mercy shall be built up for ever: thy truth shall be established in the heavens. | For You said, “Mercy shall be built up forever;  Your truth shall be prepared in the heavens. |
| 4 I have made a covenant with My chosen people,  I have sworn to My servant David: |  |  |  | I have made a covenant with My chosen; I have sworn unto David My servant, | “I made a covenant with my chosen ones;  I swore to Dauid my slave: | I made a covenant with my chosen ones, I sware unto David my servant. | I made a covenant with My chosen ones;  I swore to David My servant, |
| 5 ‘I will prepare your Son[[2]](#footnote-2) for an eternal reign,  and build up your throne for all generations.’ *(Pause)* |  |  |  | Thy seed will I stablish for ever, and set up thy throne from one generation to another. | ‘Forever I will provide offspring for you  and will build your throne for generation and generation’.” *Interlude on strings* | I will establish thy seed for ever, and build up thy throne to all generations. Pause. | I shall prepare your seed forever,  And I shall build your throne from generation to generation.”  (Pause) |
| 6 The heavens praise Your wonders, O Lord,  and Your truth in the Church of the Saints. |  |  |  | The heavens shall declare Thy wondrous works, O Lord, even Thy truth in the church of the saints. | The heavens will acknowledge your wonders, O Lord,  indeed [and], your truth in an assembly of holy ones, | The heavens shall declare thy wonders, O Lord; and thy truth in the assembly of the saints. | The heavens shall confess Your wonders, O Lord,  And Your truth in the church of the saints. |
| 7 For who in the clouds can equal the Lord?  And who is like the Lord among the sons of God? |  |  |  | For who among the clouds shall be compared unto the Lord? Who among the sons of the gods shall be like unto the Lord? | because who in the clouds shall be deemed equal to the Lord?  And who among divine sons shall be compared with the Lord? | For who in the heavens shall be compared to the Lord? and who shall be likened to the Lord among the sons of God? | For who in the clouds shall be compared to the Lord,  And who among the sons of God shall be compared to the Lord? |
| 8 God is glorious in the council of the saints,  great and terrible above all those around Him. |  |  |  | We shall glorify God in the council of the saints; great and terrible is He over all them that are round about Him. | God is glorified in a council of holy ones,  great and awesome to all that are around him. | God is glorified in the council of the saints; great and terrible toward all that are round about him. | God is glorified in the counsel of saints;  He is great and fearful toward all round about Him. |
| 9 O Lord, God of Hosts, who is like You?  You are powerful, O Lord, and Your truth is around You. |  |  |  | O Lord God of hosts, who is like unto Thee? Thou art strong, O Lord, and Thy truth is round about Thee. | O Lord God of hosts, who is like you?  You are powerful, O Lord, and your truth is around you. | O Lord God of hosts, who is like to thee? thou art mighty, O Lord, and thy truth is round about thee. | O Lord God of hosts, who is like You?  You are powerful, O Lord, and Your truth is around You. |
| 10 You rule the raging of the sea,  You stillest the surge of its waves. |  |  |  | Thou rulest the power of the sea; Thou stillest the raging of its waves. | It is you who rule the might of the sea,  and the surge of its waves you calm. | Thou rulest the power of the sea; and thou calmest the tumult of its waves. | You are master of the sea’s strength,  And You calm the surging of its waves. |
| 11 You humblest the proud like wounded men;  with Your powerful arm You dost scatter Your enemies. |  |  |  | Thou hast humbled the arrogant, as one wounded; Thou hast scattered Thine enemies with the might of Thy strength. | It is you who brought low a proud one like one wounded;  with [and] the arm of your power you scattered your enemies. | Thou has brought down the proud as one that is slain; and with the arm of thy power thou has scattered thine enemies. | You humbled the arrogant man as though he were wounded,  And with the arm of Your power You scattered Your enemies. |
| 12 Your are the heavens and Your the earth;  the world and its fullness You have founded. |  |  |  | The heavens are Thine, the earth also is Thine; Thou hast laid the foundation of the whole world, and all that therein is. | Yours are the heavens, and your si s the earth;  the world and all that is in it you founded. | The heavens are thine, and the earth is thine: thou hast founded the world, and the fullness of it. | The heavens belong to You, and the earth is Yours;  You founded the world and all its fullness. |
| 13 The north and the sea You have created;[[3]](#footnote-3)  Tabor and Hermon rejoice in Your name. |  |  |  | Thou hast made the north and the sea; Tabor and Hermon shall rejoice in Thy Name. | The north and seas you created;  Thabor and Hermon will rejoice in your name. | Thou hast created the north and the west: Thabor and Hermon shall rejoice in thy name. | You created the north wind and the seas;  Tabor and Hermon shall greatly rejoice in Your name. |
| 14 Your is a mighty arm;  let Your hand be strong, Your right hand uplifted. |  |  |  | Thy arm is mighty; let Thy hand be strengthened, and Thy right hand be lifted up. | Yours is the arm with dominance;  let your hand be strong;  let your right hand be exalted. | Thine is the mighty arm: let thy hand be strengthened, let thy right hand be exalted. | Your arm rules with power;  Let Your hand be strengthened; let Your right hand be exalted. |
| 15 Justice and judgment prepare the way for Your throne;  mercy and truth pave the way for Your presence. |  |  |  | Justice and judgment are the pedestal of Thy throne; mercy and truth shall go before Thy face. | Righteousness and judgment are a provision of your throne;  mercy and truth will go in front of you. | Justice and judgment are the establishment of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face. | The foundation of Your throne is righteousness and judgment;  Mercy and truth shall go before Your face. |
| 16 Blessed are the people who know the festal shout.  They walk, O Lord, in the light of Your presence. |  |  |  | Blessed is the people that know jubilation; O Lord, they shall walk in the light of Thy countenance, | Happy are the people who know a shout for you;  O Lord, in the light of your countenance they will walk, | Blessed is the people that knows the joyful sound: they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of thy countenance. | Blessed are the people who know glad shouting;  O Lord, they shall walk in the light of Your face, |
| 17 They exult in Your name all day long,  and in Your righteousness they are exalted. |  |  |  | And in Thy Name shall they rejoice all day, and by Thy righteousness shall they be exalted. | and in your name they will rejoice all day long,  and in your righteousness they will be exalted, | And in thy name shall they rejoice all the day: and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted. | And shall greatly rejoice in Your name the whole day long;  And they shall be exalted in Your righteousness. |
| 18 For You are the glory of their strength;  and by pleasing You we are raised to power. |  |  |  | For Thou art the glory of their strength, and in Thy good pleasure shall our horn be lifted up. | because you are the boast of their power  and by your favor our horn shall be exalted, | For thou art the boast of their strength; and in thy good pleasure shall our horn be exalted, | For You are the boast of their power,  And in Your good pleasure our horn shall be exalted. |
| 19 For our protection belongs to the Lord,  and to our King, the Holy One of Israel. |  |  |  | For defense is of the Lord, and of the Holy One of Israel, our King. | because support is of the Lord  and of the Holy One of Israel, our king. | for *our* help is of the Lord; and of the Holy One of Israel, our king. | For our defense is from the Lord  And from the Holy One of Israel, our King. |
| 20 Once You did speak in a vision to Your children[[4]](#footnote-4)  and say: ‘I have laid help upon a warrior;  I have exalted one chosen from My people. |  |  |  | Then spakest Thou in a vision unto Thy sons, and saidst, I have laid help upon one that is mighty; I have raised up the chosen one of My people. | Then you spoke in a vision to your devout ones and said:  “I added help to one who is powerful;  I exalted one chosen from my people. | Then thou spokest in vision to thy children, and saidst, I have laid help on a mighty one; I have exalted one chosen out of my people. | Then You spoke to Your holy ones in a vision,  And You said, “I established help for a mighty one;  I raised up a chosen one from My people; |
| 21 I have found David, My servant;  with My holy oil I have anointed him. |  |  |  | I have found David My servant; with My holy oil have I anointed him. | I found Dauid my slave;  with my holy oil I anointed him. | I have found David my servant; I have anointed him by *my* holy mercy. | I found David My servant;  I anointed him with My holy oil. |
| 22 For My hand will support him,  and My arm will strengthen him. |  |  |  | For My hand shall hold him up, and My arm shall strengthen him. | For my hand shall sustain him;  my arm also shall strengthen him. | For my hand shall support him; and mine arm shall strengthen him. | For My hand shall support him,  And My arm shall strengthen him. |
| 23 The enemy will not get the better of him,  and the son of iniquity will do him no harm. |  |  |  | The enemy shall be able to do nothing against him, and the son of iniquity shall not be able to hurt him. | An enemy shall not profit by him,  and a son of lawlessness shall not add to harm him. | The enemy shall have no advantage against him; and the son of transgression shall not hurt him again. | The enemy shall have no advantage against him,  And the son of lawlessness shall not continue doing evil to him; |
| 24 And I will cut down his enemies before his face,  and rout those who hate him. |  |  |  | And I will smite down his foes before his face, and vanquish them that hate him. | And I will crush his enemies from before him,  and those who hate him I will rout. | And I will hew down his foes before him, and put to flight those that hate him. | I will cut his enemies to pieces before his face,  And I shall put to flight those who hate him. |
| 25 My truth and My mercy shall be with him,  and in My name he will rise to power. |  |  |  | My truth also and My mercy are with him, and in My Name shall his horn be exalted. | And my truth and my mercy shall be with him,  and in my name his horn shall be exalted. | But my truth and my mercy shall be with him; and in my name shall his horn be exalted. | My truth and My mercy are with him,  And in My name shall his horn be exalted; |
| 26 I will extend his power over the sea,  and his right hand over the rivers. |  |  |  | I will set his hand also upon the seas, and his right hand in the rivers. | And I will set his hand in a sea,  and in rivers his right hand. | And I will set his hand in the sea, and his right hand in the rivers. | I will put his hand in the sea  And his right hand in the rivers. |
| 27 He will call on Me: ‘You are my Father,  my God, and the support of my salvation.’ |  |  |  | He shall call Me, Thou art my Father, my God, and the defender of my salvation. | He shall call upon me, ‘My Father you are,  My God and supporter of my deliverance!’ | He shall call upon me, saying, Thou art my Father, my God, and the helper of my salvation. | He shall call upon Me, saying,  ‘You are my Father,  My God, and the protector of my salvation’; |
| 28 And I will make him My firstborn,[[5]](#footnote-5)  high above the kings of the earth. |  |  |  | And I will make him My first-born, higher than the kings of the earth. | And I will make him a firstborn,  high among the kings of the earth. | And I will make him my first-born, higher than the kings of the earth. | I shall make him, my firstborn,  Higher than the kings of the earth. |
| 29 I will cherish My love for him for ever,  and My covenant will stand firm with him. |  |  |  | My mercy will I keep for him for evermore, and My covenant shall be true to him. | Forever I will keep my mercy for him,  and my covenant with him will stand firm. | I will keep my mercy for him for ever, and my covenant shall be firm with him. | I shall keep My mercy for him forever,  And My covenant shall be trustworthy with him. |
| 30 And I will make his dynasty[[6]](#footnote-6) eternal,  and his throne as the days of heaven. |  |  |  | His seed also will I stablish for ever and ever, and his throne as the days of heaven. | And I will establish his seed forever and ever  and his throne as the days of the sky. | And I will establish his seed for ever and ever, and his throne as the days of heaven. | I shall establish his seed unto ages of ages  And his throne as the days of heaven. |
| 31 If his sons forsake My law  and do not walk by My judgments, |  |  |  | But if his children forsake My Law, and walk not in My judgments; | If his sons forsake my law  and by my judgments do not walk, | If his children should forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments; | If his sons forsake My law  And do not walk in My judgments, |
| 32 if they profane My rights  and do not keep My commandments, |  |  |  | If they profane My statutes, and keep not My commandments, | if my statutes they shall violate  and my commandments they do not keep, | if they should profane my ordinances, and not keep my commandments; | If they profane My ordinances  And do not keep My commandments, |
| 33 I will visit their sins with the rod,  and their iniquities with the scourge. |  |  |  | I will visit their offenses with the rod, and their sin with scourges. | I will visit their lawlessness with a rod,  and with scourges their sins, | I will visit their transgressions with a rod, and their sins with scourges. | I shall visit their transgressions with a rod  And their sins with a whip; |
| 34 Yet I will not withdraw My mercy from them,  and will never break My troth.[[7]](#footnote-7) |  |  |  | Nevertheless, My mercy will I not unbind from them, nor act harmfully in My truth, | but my mercy I will never disperse from him  nor be unjust in my truth, | But my mercy I will not utterly remove from him, nor wrong my truth. | But I will not turn away My mercy from him,  Nor will I act unjustly with My truth, |
| 35 I will never profane My covenant,  nor ignore what has gone from My lips. |  |  |  | Neither will I profane my covenant, nor alter the thing that is gone out of My lips. | nor will I violate my covenant  and set aside what proceeds from my lips. | Neither will I by any means profane my covenant; and I will not make void the things that proceed out of my lips. | Nor will I profane My covenant,  And I will not reject the things that proceeded from My lips. |
| 36 Once for all I have sworn by My holiness;  can I lie to David? |  |  |  | I have sworn once by My holiness, that I will not lie unto David. | Once and for all I swore by my holiness [in my holy place],  ‘If I will lie to Dauid.’ | Once have I sworn by my holiness, that I will not lie to David. | Once for all I swore in My holy place,  That I would not lie to David: |
| 37 His dynasty[[8]](#footnote-8) will continue for ever,  and his throne as long as the sun before Me, |  |  |  | His seed shall endure for ever, and his throne shall be like as the sun before Me, | His seed shall remain forever,  and his throne is like the sun before me, | His see shall endure for ever, and his throne as the sun before me; | His seed shall remain forever,  And his throne as the sun before Me, |
| 38 like the moon that is fixed for ever,  like the faithful witness in heaven.’[[9]](#footnote-9) *(Pause)* |  |  |  | And as the moon, perfect for ever, and a faithful witness in heaven. | And like the moon, established forever.  And the witness in heaven is faithful.” *Interlude on strings* | and as the moon that is established for ever, and as the faithful witness in heaven. Pause. | And as the moon that is established forever  And is a faithful witness in heaven.”  (Pause) |
| 39 But You have rejected and spurned us;  You have delayed Your Christ. |  |  |  | But Thou hast rejected and humiliated, Thou hast been indignant with Thine anointed. | But you, you spurned and rejected;  you put off your anointed. | But thou hast cast off and set at nought, thou has rejected thine anointed. | But You pushed him away and scorned him;  You rejected Your anointed; |
| 40 You have dissolved the covenant with Your servant,  and profaned his sanctuary to the ground. |  |  |  | Thou hast annulled the covenant of Thy servant; Thou hast profaned his sanctuary on earth. | You renounced the covenant with your slaves;  you defiled his sanctity [holy precinct] in the dust. | Thou hast overthrown the covenant of thy servant; thou has profaned his sanctuary, casting it to the ground | You overturned the covenant of Your servant;  You profaned his sanctuary to the ground. |
| 41 You have broken down all his defences,  and put cowardice in his strongholds. |  |  |  | Thou hast overthrown all his bulwarks; Thou hast put fear in his strong-holds. | You broke down all his defenses;  you reduced his strongholds to cowardice. | Thou hast broken down all his hedges; thou hast made his strong holds a terror. | You pulled down all his walls;  You put cowardice in his stronghold; |
| 42 All who pass by plunder him;  he has become the scorn of his neighbors. |  |  |  | All they that pass by on the way have despoiled him; he is become a shame to his neighbors. | All the way-farers plundered him;  he became a reproach to his neighbors. | All that go by the way have spoiled him: he is become a reproach to his neighbours. | All who traveled through there robbed him;  He was a disgrace to his neighbors. |
| 43 You have raised up the right hand of his oppressors;  You have gladdened all his enemies. |  |  |  | Thou hast raised the right hand of them that oppress him; Thou hast gladdened all his enemies. | You exalted the right hand of his enemies;  you made glad all his enemies. | Thou hast exalted the right hand of his enemies; thou hast made all his enemies to rejoice. | You exalted the right hand of his enemies;  You delighted all his adversaries; |
| 44 You have foiled the help of his sword,  and have not supported him in battle. |  |  |  | Thou hast turned away the help of his sword, and took not up for him in battle. | You turned away the help of his sword,  and you did not support him in battle. | Thou hast turned back the help of his sword, and hast not helped him in the battle. | You turned away Your help from his sword,  And did not support him in his war. |
| 45 You have made an end of his purification;  You have dashed his throne to the ground. |  |  |  | Thou hast made an end of his purification; Thou hast cast his throne down to the ground. | You dismissed him from purification;  his throne you smashed to the ground. | Thou hast deprived him of glory: thou hast broken down his throne to the ground. | You deprived him of purification;  You broke his throne to pieces on the ground; |
| 46 You have shortened the days of his life;  You have covered him with shame. *(Pause)* |  |  |  | Thou hast shortened the span of his days; Thou hast  drenched him with shame. | You diminished the days of his time;  you covered him with shame. *Interlude on strings* | Thou hast shortened the days of his throne: thou hast poured shame upon him. Pause. | You shortened the days of his time;  You poured down shame upon him.  (Pause) |
| 47 How long, O Lord, will You turn away?  Will Your wrath burn like fire for ever? |  |  |  | How long, O Lord, wilt Thou turn Thyself away? For ever? Shall Thy wrath kindle like fire? | How long, O Lord? Will you turn away completely?  Will your wrath burn like fire? | How long, O Lord, wilt thou turn away, for ever? shall thine anger flame out as fire? | How long, O Lord: will You turn away to the end?  Will Your wrath always burn like fire? |
| 48 Remember what my substance is.  Have You created in vain all the children of men? |  |  |  | O remember what my substance is, for hast Thou made all the children of men for naught? | Remember what my substance is.  For, surely, you did not create all the sons of men in vain? | Remember what my being is: for hast thou created all the sons of men in vain? | Let my substance be remembered, as to what sort it is,  For did You create all the sons of men in vain? |
| 49 What man can live and not see death?  Who can deliver his soul from the clutch of hell? *(Pause)* |  |  |  | What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death? Shall he deliver his soul from the hand of hell? | Who is the person who shall live and not see death,  shall rescue his soul from the power of Hades? *Interlude on strings* | What man is there who shall live, and not see death? shall any one deliver his soul from the hand of Hades? Pause. | What kind of man is there who will live and not see death?  Will he deliver his soul from the hand of Hades?  (Pause) |
| 50 Where are Your mercies of old, O Lord,  which You did solemnly promise to David by Your truth? |  |  |  | Where are Thy mercies of old, O Lord, which Thou swarest unto David in Thy truth? | Lord, where are your mercies of long ago,  which you swore do Dauid by your truth? | Where are thine ancient mercies, O Lord, which thou swarest to David in thy truth? | Where, O Lord, are Your mercies of old,  Which in Your truth You swore to David? |
| 51 Remember, O Lord, the reproach of Your servants,  how I bear in my bosom the reproach of many nations, |  |  |  | Remember, Lord, the rebuke that Thy servants have, which I have borne in my bosom from many nations, | Remember, O Lord, the reproach against your slaves,  which I bore in my bosom, from many nations, | Remember, O Lord, the reproach of thy servants, which I have borne in my bosom, even the reproach of many nations; | Remember, O Lord, the reproach of Your servants I bore in my bosom,  The reproach of many nations, |
| 52 with which Your enemies reproach us, O Lord,  with which they reproach the redemption of Your Christ. |  |  |  | Wherewith Thine enemies have blasphemed, O Lord, wherewith they have slandered the change of Thine anointed. | with which your enemies reproached, O Lord,  with which they reproached what had been exchanged for your anointed. | wherewith thine enemies have reviled, O Lord: wherewith they have reviled the recompense of thine anointed. | Wherewith Your enemies scorned, O Lord,  Wherewith they scorned the change of Your anointed. |
| 53 Blessed be the Lord for ever. So be it! So be it! |  |  |  | Blessed be the Lord for evermore. So be it. So be it. | Blessed be the Lord forever. May it be; may it be. | Blessed be the Lord for ever. So be it, so be it. | Blessed is the Lord forever.  Amen! Amen! |

1. ‘God’s mercy is the salvation and grace granted by Christ’ (St. Athanasius). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Son: *lit*. ‘seed’. God will prepare the son of David to be the Messiah King. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. ‘This means the four parts of the globe: North means the land of the midnight sun; sea means the West’ (St. Athanasius). On the West of Palestine lies the Mediterranean sea, so the Bible calls the West the Sea. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Cp. 2 Samuel 7:4-17; 1 Chron. 17:3-14. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. *Firstborn* = Christ in David. Cp. Heb. 1:6; Rom. 8:29; Col. 1:13-18; Rev. 1:5; 3:14; Matt. 1:25; Exod. 4:22; Heb. 12:23. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. dynasty: *lit*. seed (Gal. 3:16; Is. 9:7). [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. In Hebrew thought, truth, troth and fidelity are inseparable concepts. To be true is to be faithful. True life is the relationship of obedient and mutual love (Jn. 14:15; 15:10; Mk. 3:35). [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. dynasty: *lit*. seed. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Rev. 1:5; 3:14. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)