

PSALMS OF COMFORT WHEN SUFFERING OPPRESSION AND MISTREATMENT

The Psalms that follow are especially helpful in regaining confidence in God's love and justice when you are suffering under oppression or mistreatment at the hands of wickedness.

I have made a few adaptations to some Psalms so as to bring Old Testament expressions into harmony with New Testament theology.

If you find my work helpful, please send a donation to support my websites which are free of advertising and free from the corruption of liberalism or extreme traditionalism. I simply present the traditional Catholic truth necessary to fight the spiritual battle against evil and save souls.



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Psalm 10

I

Lord, why does it seem that You stand afar off
and hide Yourself in times of distress?
The faithful man is devoured by the pride of the wicked:
he is caught in the schemes that others have made.

For the wicked man boasts of his heart's desires;
the covetous blasphemes and spurns the Lord.
In his pride the wicked says: "He will not punish.
There is no God." Such are his thoughts.

His path is ever untroubled;
Your judgment is far from his mind.
His enemies he regards with contempt.
He thinks: "Never shall I falter:
misfortune shall never be my lot."

His mouth is full of cursing, guile, oppression;
mischief and deceit are under his tongue.
He lies in wait among the reeds;
the innocent he murders in secret.

His eyes are on the watch for the helpless man.
He lurks in hiding like a lion in his lair;
he lurks in hiding to seize the faithful;
he seizes the faithful man and drags him away.

He crouches, preparing to spring,
and the helpless fall beneath such strength.
He thinks in his heart: "God forgets,
He hides His face, He does not see."

II

Arise then, Lord, lift up Your hand!
O God, protect the faithful!
Why should the wicked spurn the Lord
and think in his heart: "God will not punish"?

But You have seen the trouble and sorrow,
You note it, you take it in hand.
The helpless trusts himself to You;
for You are the helper of the orphan.

Break the power of the wicked and the sinner!
The Lord is king for ever and ever.
The heathen shall perish from the land He rules.

Lord, You hear the prayer of the faithful;
You strengthen their hearts; You turn Your ear
to protect the rights of the orphan and oppressed:
so that mortal man may strike terror no more.

Psalm 3

How many are my foes, O Lord!
How many are rising up against me!
How many are saying about me:
“There is no help for him in God.”

But You, Lord, are a shield about me,
my glory, who lift up my head.
I cry aloud to the Lord.
He answers from His holy mountain.

I lie down to rest and I sleep;
I wake, for the Lord upholds me.
I will not fear even thousands of people
who are ranged on every side against me.

Arise, Lord; save me, my God,
You who judge all my foes,
You who break the pride of the wicked!
O Lord of salvation, bless Your people!

Psalm 1

Blessed indeed is the man
who follows not the counsel of the wicked;
nor lingers in the way of sinners
nor sits in the company of scorers,
but whose delight is the law of the Lord
and who ponders His law day and night.

He is like a tree that is planted
beside the flowing waters,
that yields its fruit in due season
and whose leaves shall never fade;
and all that he does shall prosper.
Not so are the wicked, not so!

For they like winnowed chaff
shall be driven away by the wind.
When the wicked are judged they shall not stand,
nor find room among those who are just;
for the Lord guards the way of the just,
but the way of the wicked leads to doom.

Psalm 2

Why this tumult among nations,
among peoples this useless murmuring?
They arise, the kings of the earth,
princes plot against the Lord and His Anointed.
“Come, let us break their fetters,
come, let us cast off their yoke.”

He who sits in the heavens laughs;
the Lord is laughing them to scorn.
Then He will speak in his glory,
His majesty will strike them with terror:
“It is I who have set up My king
on Sion, My holy mountain.”

I will announce the decree of the Lord:
The Lord said to me: “You are My Son.
It is I who have begotten you this day.
Ask and I shall bequeath you the nations,
put the ends of the earth in your possession.
With a rod of iron you will break them,
shatter them like a potter’s jar.”

Now, O kings, understand,
take warning, rulers of the earth;
serve the Lord with awe
and trembling, pay Him your homage,
lest in your disobedience you perish,
for suddenly His glory will blaze.

Psalm 5

To my words give ear, O Lord,
give heed to my groaning.
Attend to the sound of my cries,
my King and my God.

It is You whom I invoke, O Lord.
In the morning You hear me;
in the morning I offer You my prayer,
watching and waiting.

You are no God Who loves evil;
no sinner is Your guest.
The boastful shall not stand their ground
before Your face.

You hate all who do evil;
all who lie are destroyed.
The deceitful and bloodthirsty man
the Lord detests.

But I through the greatness of Your love
have access to Your house.
I bow down before Your holy temple,
filled with awe.

Lead me, Lord, in Your justice,
because of those who lie in wait;
make clear Your way before me.

No truth can be found in their mouths;
their heart is all mischief;
their throat a wide-open grave;
all honey their speech.

All those You protect shall be glad
and ring out their joy.
You shelter them; in You they rejoice,
those who love Your Name.

It is You who bless the just man, Lord;
You surround him with favor as with a shield.

Psalm 6

Lord, rescue me in Your mercy;
save me in Your love.
Have mercy on me, Lord, I have no strength;
Lord, heal me, my body is racked;
my soul is racked with pain.

But You, O Lord . . . how long?
Return, Lord, rescue my soul.
Save me in Your merciful love.

I am exhausted with my groaning;
every night I drench my pillow with tears;
I bedew my bed with weeping.
My eye wastes away with grief;
I have grown old surrounded by my foes.

Leave me, all you who do evil;
for the Lord has heard my weeping.
The Lord has heard my plea;
The Lord will accept my prayer.
All my foes will retire in confusion,
foiled and suddenly confounded.

Psalm 7

I

Lord God, I take refuge in You.
From my pursuer save me and rescue me,
lest he tear me to pieces like a lion
and drag me off with no one to rescue me.

Lord God, if my hands have done wrong,
if I have paid back evil for good—
I who saved my unjust oppressor—
then let my foe pursue me and seize me,
let him trample my life to the ground
and lay my soul in the dust.

Lord, rise up in Your glory,
rise against the fury of my foes;
my God, awake! You will give judgement;
Let the company of nations gather round You,
taking Your seat above them on high.
The Lord is judge of the peoples.

Give judgement for me, Lord; I desire to be just
and innocent of heart.
Put an end to the evil of the wicked!
May the just stand firm;
You who test mind and heart,
O just God!

II

God is the shield that protects me,
Who saves the upright of heart.
God is a just judge;
He threatens the wicked every day,
men who will not repent.

Here is one who is pregnant with malice,
conceives evil and brings forth lies.
He digs a pitfall, digs it deep;
and in the trap he has made he will fall.
His malice will recoil on himself;
on his own head his violence will fall.

I will thank the Lord for His justice:
I will sing to the Lord, the Most High.

Psalm 9A

I

I will praise You, Lord, with all my heart;
I will recount all Your wonders.
I will rejoice in You and be glad,
and sing psalms to Your Name, O Most High.

See how my enemies turn back,
how they stumble and perish before You.
You uphold the justice of my cause;
You sit enthroned, judging with justice.

You check the nations;
the wicked send themselves to their doom;
their name is wiped out for ever and ever.
The foe will be destroyed, eternally ruined.
You will uproot their cities; their memory will perish.

The Lord sits enthroned forever.
He has set up His throne for judgement;
He will judge the world with justice,
He will judge the peoples with His truth.

For the oppressed let the Lord be a stronghold,
a stronghold in times of distress.
Those who know Your Name will trust You;
You will never forsake those who seek You.

II

Have pity on me, Lord, see my sufferings,
You who save me from the gates of death;
that I may recount all Your praise
at the gates of the city of Sion
and rejoice in Your saving help.

The nations will fall in the pit which they made,
their feet caught in the snare they laid.
The Lord has revealed Himself, and will give judgement.
The wicked will be snared in the work of their own hands.

The wicked will go down among the dead,
all the nations forgetful of God;
For the needy shall not always be forgotten,
nor the hopes of the faithful be in vain.

Arise, Lord, let men not prevail!
Let the nations be judged before You.
Lord, strike them with terror;
let the nations know they are but men.

Psalm 11

In the Lord I have taken my refuge.
How can you say to my soul:
“Fly like a bird to its mountain.

See the wicked bracing their bow;
they are fixing their arrows on the string
to shoot upright men in the dark.
Foundations once destroyed, what can the just do?”

The Lord is in His holy temple,
the Lord, Whose throne is in Heaven.
His eyes look down on the world;
His gaze tests mortal men.

The Lord tests the just and the wicked;
the lover of violence He hates.
He sends fire and brimstone on the wicked;
He sends a scorching wind as their lot.

The Lord is just and loves justice;
the upright shall see His face.

Psalm 12

Help, O Lord, for good men have vanished;
truth has gone from the sons of men.
Falsehood they speak one to another,
with lying lips, with a false heart.

May the Lord destroy all lying lips,
the tongue that speaks high-sounding words,
those who say: "Our tongue is our strength;
our lips are our own, who is our master?"

"For the faithful who are oppressed and the needy who groan
I myself will arise," says the Lord,
"I will grant them the salvation for which they thirst."

The words of the Lord are words without alloy,
silver from the furnace, seven times refined

It is You, O Lord, Who will take us in Your care
and protect us forever from this generation.
See how the wicked prowl on every side,
while the worthless are prized highly by the sons of men.

Psalm 17

I

Lord, hear a cause that is just,
pay heed to my cry.
Turn Your ear to my prayer:
no deceit is on my lips.

From You may my judgment come forth.
Your eyes discern the truth.

You search my heart, You visit me by night.
You test me and You find in me no wrong.
My words are not sinful as are men's words.

I kept from violence because of Your word,
I kept my feet firmly in Your paths;
there was no faltering in my steps.

I am here and I call, You will hear me, O God.
Turn Your ear to me; hear my words.
Display Your great love, You whose right hand saves
Your friends from those who rebel against them.

Guard me as the apple of Your eye.
Hide me in the shadow of Your wings
from the violent attack of the wicked.

II

My foes encircle me with deadly intent.
Their hearts tight shut, their mouths speak proudly.
They advance against me, and now they surround me.

Their eyes are watching to strike me to the ground,
as though they were lions ready to claw,
or like some young lion crouched in hiding.

Lord, arise, confront them, strike them down!
Let Your sword rescue my soul from the wicked;
let Your hand, O Lord, rescue me from men,
from men whose reward is in this present life.

You give them their fill of your treasures;
they rejoice in abundance of offspring
and leave their wealth to their children.

As for me, in my justice I shall see your face
and be filled, when I awake, with the sight of your glory.

Psalm 25

I

To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
I trust You, let me not be disappointed;
do not let my enemies triumph.
Those who hope in You shall not be disappointed,
but only those who wantonly break faith.

Lord, let me know Your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Let me walk in Your truth, and teach me:
for You are God my savior.

In You I hope all day long
because of Your goodness, O Lord.
Remember Your mercy, Lord,
and the love You have shown from of old.
Forgive the sins of my youth.
In Your love remember me.

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
He guides the humble in the right path,
He teaches His way to the faithful.

His ways are faithfulness and love
for those who keep His covenant and law.
Lord, for the sake of Your Name
forgive my guilt, for it is great.

II

If anyone fears the Lord
He will show him the path he should choose.
The Lord's friendship is for those who revere Him;
to them He reveals His covenant.

My eyes are always on the Lord;
for He rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy,
for I am lonely and faithful.

Relieve the anguish of my heart
and set me free from my distress.
See my affliction and my toil.

See how many are my foes;
how violent their hatred for me.
Preserve my life and rescue me.
May innocence and uprightness protect me:
for my hope is in You, O Lord.

Psalm 27

I

The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink?

When evildoers draw near to devour my flesh,
it is they, my enemies and foes,
who stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me,
my heart would not fear.
Though war break out against me,
even then would I trust.

There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord,
all the days of my life,
to savor the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold His temple.

For there He keeps me safe in the day of evil.
He hides me in His shelter;
on a rock He sets me safe.

And now my head shall be raised
above my foes who surround me,
and I shall offer to God a sacrifice of joy.

II

O Lord, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer.
Of You my heart has spoken:
“Seek His face.”

It is Your face, O Lord, that I seek;
Show me Your love.
Dismiss not Your servant in rebuke;
You have been my help.

You will not abandon or forsake me,
O God my help!
Though father and mother forsake me,
the Lord will receive me.

Instruct me, Lord, in Your way;
on an even path lead me.
When they lie in ambush,
protect me from my enemy's greed.
False witnesses rise against me,
breathing out fury.

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.
Hope in Him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord!

I

In you, O Lord, I take refuge.
Let me never be put to shame.
In Your justice, set me free,
hear me and speedily rescue me.

Be a rock of refuge for me,
a mighty stronghold to save me,
for You are my rock, my stronghold.
For Your Name's sake, lead me and guide me.

Release me from the snares they have hidden,
for You are my refuge, Lord.
Into Your hands I commend my spirit.
It is You who will redeem me, Lord.

O God of truth, You detest
those who worship false and empty gods.
As for me, I trust in You:
let me be glad and rejoice in Your love.

You who have seen my affliction
and taken heed of my soul's distress,
have not handed me over to the enemy,
but set my feet at large.

II

Have mercy on me, O Lord,
for I am in distress.
Tears have wasted my eyes,
my throat and my heart.

For my life is spent with sorrow
and my years with sighs.
Affliction has broken down my strength,
and my bones waste away.

In the face of all my foes
I am a reproach,
an object of scorn to my neighbors
and of fear to my friends.

Those who see me in the street
run far away from me.
I am like a dead man, forgotten,
like a thing thrown away.

I have heard the slander of the crowd,
fear is all around me,
as they plot together against me,
as they plan to take my life.

But as for me, I trust in You, Lord;
I say: "You are my God."
My life is in Your hands, deliver me
from the hands of those who hate me.

Let Your face shine on Your servant.
Save me in Your love.

III

How great is the goodness, Lord,
that You keep for those who fear You,
that You show to those who trust You
in the sight of men.

You hide them in the shelter of Your presence
from the plotting of men;
You keep them safe within Your protection
from disputing tongues.

Blessed be the Lord who has shown me
the wonders of his love
in His holy presence.

I am far removed from Your sight,
I said in my alarm.
Yet you heard the voice of my plea
when I cried for help.

Love the Lord, all you saints.
He guards His faithful,
but the Lord will repay to the full
those who act with pride.

Be strong, let your heart take courage,
all who hope in the Lord.

I

O Lord, plead my cause against my foes;
fight those who fight me.
Take up Your buckler and shield;
arise to help me.

O Lord, say to my soul:
"I am your salvation."

Then my soul shall be joyful in the Lord
and rejoice in His salvation.
My whole being will say:
"Lord, who is like You
Who rescue the weak from the strong
and the faithful from the oppressor?"

Lying witnesses arise
and accuse me unjustly.
They repay me evil for good:
my soul is forlorn.

II

When they were sick I went into mourning,
afflicted with fasting.
My prayer was ever on my lips,
as for a brother, a friend.
I went as though mourning a mother,
bowed down with grief.

Now that I am in trouble they gather,
they gather and mock me.
They take me by surprise and strike me
and tear me to pieces.
They provoke me with mockery on mockery
and gnash their teeth.

III

O Lord, how long will You look on?
Come to my rescue!
Save my life from these raging beasts,
my soul from these lions.

Do not let my lying foes
rejoice over me.
Do not let those who hate me unjustly
wink eyes at each other.

O Lord, You have seen, do not be silent,
do not stand afar off!
Awake, stir to my defense,
to my cause, O God!

Let there be joy for those who love my cause.
Let them say without end:
"Great is the Lord who delights
in the peace of His servant."
Then my tongue shall speak of Your justice,
all day long of Your praise.

I

Do not fret because of the wicked;
do not envy those who do evil,
for they wither quickly like grass
and fade like the green of the fields.

If you trust in the Lord and do good,
then you will live in the land and be secure.
Commit your life to the Lord,
trust in Him and He will act,
so that His justice breaks forth like the light,
your cause like the noon-day sun.

Be still before the Lord and wait in patience;
do not fret at the man who prospers;
a man who makes evil plots
to bring down the needy and the faithful.

Calm your anger and forget your rage;
do not fret, it only leads to evil.
For those who do evil shall perish;
the patient shall inherit the land.

A little longer—and the wicked shall have gone.
Look at his place, he is not there.
But the humble shall own the land
and enjoy the fullness of peace.

II

The wicked man plots against the just
and gnashes his teeth against him;
but the Lord laughs at the wicked,
for He sees that his day is at hand.

The sword of the wicked is drawn,
his bow is bent to slaughter the upright.
Their sword shall pierce their own hearts,
and their bows shall be broken to pieces.

The just man's few possessions
are better than the wicked man's wealth;
for the power of the wicked shall be broken,
and the Lord will support the just.

He protects the lives of the upright;
their heritage will last forever.
They shall not be put to shame in evil days;
in time of famine their food shall not fail.

But all the wicked shall perish,
and all the enemies of the Lord.
They are like the beauty of the meadows;
they shall vanish, they shall vanish like smoke.

The wicked man borrows without repaying,
but the just man is generous and gives.
Those blessed by the Lord shall own the land,
but those who have cursed the Lord shall be destroyed.

The Lord guides the steps of a man
and makes safe the path of one he loves.
Though he stumble he shall never fall,
for the Lord holds him by the hand.

I was young and now I am old,
but I have never seen the just man forsaken
nor his children begging for bread.
All the day he is generous and lends,
and his children become a blessing.

Then turn away from evil and do good,
and you shall have a home for ever;
for the Lord loves justice
and will never forsake His friends.

The unjust shall be wiped out for ever,
and the children of the wicked destroyed.
The just shall inherit the land;
there they shall live forever.

III

The just man's mouth utters wisdom,
and his lips speak what is right;
the law of his God is in his heart;
his steps shall be saved from stumbling.

The wicked man watches for the just
and seeks occasion to kill him.
The Lord will not leave him in his power
nor let him be condemned when he is judged.

Then wait for the Lord, keep to His way.
It is He who will free you from the wicked,
raise you up to possess the land
and see the wicked destroyed.

I have seen the wicked triumphant,
towering like a cedar of Lebanon.
I passed by again; he was gone.
I searched; he was nowhere to be found.

See the just man, mark the upright,
for the peaceful man a future lies in store,
but sinners shall all be destroyed.
No future lies in store for the wicked.

The salvation of the just comes from the Lord,
their stronghold in time of distress.
The Lord helps them and delivers them
and saves them: for their refuge is in Him.

Psalm 53

The fool has said in his heart:
“There is no God above.”
Their deeds are corrupt, depraved;
not a good man is left.

God looks down from heaven
on the sons of men
to see if any are wise,
if any seek God.

All have left the right path;
depraved, every one;
There is not a good man left;
no, not even one.

Will the evil-doers not understand?
They eat up the faithful
as though they were eating bread;
they never pray to God.

See how they tremble with fear
without cause for fear,
for God is with the just.
You may mock the hope of the faithful,
But his refuge is the Lord.

Psalm 54:1-6,8-9

O God, save me by Your Name;
by Your power, uphold my cause.
O God, hear my prayer;
listen to the words of my mouth.

For proud men have risen against me,
ruthless men seek my life.
They have no regard for You, O God,
But I have You for my help.
The Lord upholds my life.

I will sacrifice to You with willing heart
and praise Your Name for it is good:
for You have rescued me from all distress,
and my eyes will see the downfall of my foes.

I

O God, listen to my prayer;
I will not hide my pleading from You;
attend to me and reply;
with my cares, I cannot rest.

I tremble at the shouts of the foe,
at the cries of the wicked;
for they bring down evil upon me.
They assail me with fury.

My heart is stricken within me;
death's terror is on me;
trembling and fear fall upon me,
and horror overwhelms me.

O that I had wings like a dove
to fly away and be at rest.
So I would escape far away
and take refuge in the desert.

I would hasten to find a shelter
from the raging wind,
from the destructive storm, O Lord,
and from their plotting tongues.

For I can see nothing
but violence and strife in the city.
Night and day they patrol
high on the city walls.

It is full of wickedness and evil;
it is full of sin.
Its streets are never free
from tyranny and deceit.

II

As for me, I will cry to God,
and the Lord will save me.
Evening, morning and at noon
I will cry and lament.

He will deliver my soul in peace
in the attack against me;
for those who fight me are many,
but He hears my voice.

God will hear and will humble them,
the eternal judge;
for they will not amend their ways.
They have no fear of God.

The traitor has turned against his friends;
he has broken his word.
His speech is softer than butter,
but war is in his heart;
His words are smoother than oil,
but they are naked swords.

Entrust your cares to the Lord,
and He will support you.
He will never allow
the just man to stumble.

But you, O God, will bring them down
to the pit of death.

Deceitful and bloodthirsty men
shall not live half their days.
O Lord, I will trust in You.

Psalm 56:2-7b, 9-14

Have mercy on me, God, men crush me;
they fight me all day long and oppress me.
My foes crush me all day long,
for many fight proudly against me.

When I fear, I will trust in You,
in God, Whose word I praise.
In God I trust, I shall not fear;
what can mortal man do to me?

All day long they distort my words;
all their thought is to harm me.
They band together in ambush,
track me down and seek my life.

You have kept an account of my wanderings;
You have kept a record of my tears;
are they not written in Your book?
Then my foes will be put to flight
on the day that I call to You.

This I know, that God is on my side.
In God, Whose word I praise,
in the Lord Whose word I praise,
in God I trust; I shall not fear;
what can mortal man do to me?

I am bound by the vows I have made You.
O God, I will offer You praise
for You have rescued my soul from death;
You kept my feet from stumbling
that I may walk in the presence of God
and enjoy the light of the living.

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 You who have always been my help.
May You send from Heaven and save me
and shame those who assail me.

O God, send Your truth and Your love.

My soul lies down among lions,
who would devour the sons of men.
Their teeth are spears and arrows,
their tongue a sharpened sword.

O God, arise above the heavens;
may Your glory shine on earth!

They laid a snare 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, lyre and harp,
I will awake the dawn.

I will thank You, Lord, among the peoples,
among the nations I will praise You,
for Your love reaches to the heavens
and Your truth to the skies.

O God, arise above the heavens;
may Your glory shine on earth.

Psalm 59:2-5,10-11,17-18

Rescue me, God, from my foes;
protect me from those who attack me.
O rescue me from those who do evil,
and save me from blood-thirsty men.

See, they lie in wait for my life;
powerful men conspire together against me.
For no offense, no sin of mine, Lord,
for no guilt of mine they rush to take their stand.
Awake, come to my aid and see!

O my Strength, it is You to whom I turn,
for You, O God, are my stronghold,
the God Who shows me love.

O God, come to my aid
and let me see my foes humbled.

As for me, I will sing of Your strength
and each morning acclaim Your love,
for You have been my stronghold,
a refuge in the day of my distress.

O my Strength, it is You to whom I turn,
for You, O God, are my stronghold,
the God Who shows me love.

Psalm 64

Hear my voice, O God, as I complain,
guard my life from dread of the foe.
Hide me from the band of the wicked,
from the throng of those who do evil.

They sharpen their tongues like swords;
they aim bitter words like arrows
to shoot at the innocent from ambush,
shooting suddenly and recklessly.

They scheme their evil course;
they conspire to lay secret snares.
They say: "Who will see us?
Who can search out our crimes?"

He will search Who searches the mind
and knows the depths of the heart.
God will shoot them with His arrow
and deal them sudden wounds.
Their own tongue will bring them to ruin,
and all who see them will mock.

Then will all men fear;
they will tell what God has done.
They will understand God's deeds.
The just will rejoice in the Lord
and fly to Him for refuge.
All the upright hearts will glory.

Psalm 70

O God, make haste to my rescue,
Lord, come to my aid!
Let there be shame and confusion
on those who seek my life.

O let them turn back in confusion,
who delight in my harm,
let them retreat, covered with shame,
who jeer at my lot.

Let there be rejoicing and gladness
for all who seek You.
Let them say forever: "God is great,"
who love Your saving help.

As for me, wretched and faithful,
come to me, O God.
You are my rescuer, my help,
O Lord, do not delay.

Psalm 86

Turn Your ear, O Lord, and give answer,
for I am poor and needy.
Preserve my life, for I am faithful;
save the servant who trusts in You.

You are my God, have mercy on me, Lord,
for I cry to You all the day long.
Give joy to Your servant, O Lord,
for to You I lift up my soul.

O Lord, You are good and forgiving,
full of love to all who call.
Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer
and attend to the sound of my voice.

In the day of distress I will call,
and surely You will reply.
Among the gods there is none like You, O Lord;
nor work to compare with Yours.

All the nations shall come to adore You
and glorify Your Name, O Lord:
for You are great and do marvelous deeds,
You Who alone are God.

Show me, Lord, Your way
so that I may walk in Your truth.
Guide my heart to revere Your name.

I will praise You, Lord my God, with all my heart
and glorify Your name for ever;
for Your love to me has been great:
You have saved me from the depths of doom.

The proud have risen against me;
ruthless men seek my life;
to You they pay no heed.

But You, God of mercy and compassion,
abounding in love and truth,
turn and take pity on me.

O give Your strength to Your servant
and save Your handmaid's child.
Show me the sign of Your favor
that my foes may see to their shame
that You console me and give me Your help.

Psalm 94

I

O Lord, God of justice, appear!
Judge of the earth, arise;
give the proud what they deserve!

How long, O Lord, shall the wicked,
how long shall the wicked triumph?
They bluster with arrogant speech;
the evil-doers boast to each other.

They crush Your people, Lord;
they afflict the ones You have chosen.
They kill the widow and the stranger
and murder the fatherless child.

And they say: "The Lord does not see;
the God of Jacob pays no heed."
Mark this, most senseless of people;
fools, when will you understand?

Can He who made the ear, not hear?
Can He who formed the eye, not see?
Will He who trains nations not punish?
Will He who instructs us not have knowledge?
The Lord knows the thoughts of men.
He knows they are no more than a breath.

II

Blessed the man whom You teach, O Lord,
whom You train by means of Your law;
to him You give peace in evil days
while the pit is being dug for the wicked.

The Lord will not abandon His people
nor forsake those who are His own;
for judgment shall again be just
and all true hearts shall uphold it.

Who will stand up for me against the wicked?
Who will defend me from those who do evil?
If the Lord were not to help me,
I would soon go down into the silence.

When I think, "I have lost my foothold,"
Your mercy, Lord, holds me up.
When cares increase in my heart
Your consolation calms my soul.

Can judges who do evil be Your friends?
They do injustice under cover of law;
they attack the life of the just
and condemn innocent blood.

As for me, the Lord will be a stronghold;
my God will be the rock where I take refuge.
He will repay them for their evil wickedness,
They will be destroyed for their evil deeds.
The Lord, our God, will judge them.

Psalm 119:113-120

XV (Samech)

I have no love for half-hearted men;
my love is for Your law.
You are my shelter, my shield;
I hope in Your word.

Leave me, you who do evil;
I will keep God's command.
If You uphold me by Your promise I shall live;
let my hopes not be in vain.

Sustain me and I shall be saved
and ever observe Your statutes.
You spurn all who swerve from Your statutes;
their cunning is in vain.

Before You the wicked are like dross;
so I love Your will.
I tremble before You in terror;
I fear Your decrees.

Psalm 119:153-160

XX (Resh)

See my affliction and save me,
for I remember Your law.
Uphold my cause and defend me;
by Your promise, give me life.

Salvation is far from the wicked
who are heedless of Your statutes.
Numberless, Lord, are Your mercies;
with Your decrees give me life.

Though my foes and oppressors are countless,
I have not swerved from Your will.
I look at the faithless with disgust;
they ignore your promise.

See how I love Your precepts;
in Your mercy give me life.
Your word is founded on truth;
Your decrees are eternal.

Psalm 140

Rescue me, Lord, from evil men;
from the violent keep me safe;
from those who plan evil in their hearts
and stir up strife every day;
who sharpen their tongue like an adder's,
with the poison of viper on their lips.

Lord, guard me from the hands of the wicked;
from the violent keep me safe;
they plan to make me stumble.
The proud have hidden a trap,
have spread out lines in a net,
set snares across my path.

I have said to the Lord: "You are my God."
Lord, hear the cry of my appeal!
Lord my God, my mighty help,
You shield my head in the battle.
Do not grant the wicked their desire
nor let their plots succeed.

I know that the Lord will protect the faithful,
that He will do justice for the needy.
Truly the just will praise Your Name;
the upright shall live in Your presence.

Psalm 141: 1–9

I have called to You, Lord; hasten to help me!
Hear my voice when I cry to You.
Let my prayer arise before You like incense,
the raising of my hands like an evening oblation.

Set, O Lord, a guard over my mouth;
keep watch, O Lord, at the door of my lips!
I refuse to turn my heart to things that are wrong,
to evil deeds with men who are sinners.

I will not share in their feasting.
If a good man strikes or reproves me it is kindness;
but let the oil of the wicked not anoint my head.
Let my prayer be ever against their malice.

To You, Lord God, my eyes are turned:
in You I take refuge; spare my soul!
From the trap they have laid for me keep me safe:
keep me from the snares of those who do evil.

Psalm 142

With all my voice I cry to the Lord,
with all my voice I entreat the Lord.
I pour out my trouble before Him;
I tell Him all my distress
while my spirit faints within me.
But You, O Lord, know my path.

On the way where I shall walk
they have hidden a snare to entrap me.
Look on my right and see:
there is no one who takes my part.
I have no means of escape,
not one who cares for my soul.

I cry to You, O Lord.
I have said: "You are my refuge
all I have in the land of the living."
Listen, then, to my cry,
for I am in the depths of distress.

Rescue me from those who pursue me,
for they are stronger than I.
Bring my soul out of this prison,
and then I shall praise Your Name.
Around me the just will assemble
because of Your goodness to me.

