



Psalms in Focus: 51-60



St. Ann
& the Holy Trinity
Episcopal Church

51 *Miserere mei, Deus*

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your
loving-kindness; *
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- 2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness *
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I know my transgressions, *
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you only have I sinned *
and done what is evil in your sight.
- 5 And so you are justified when you speak *
and upright in your judgment.
- 6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- 7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *
and will make me understand wisdom secretly
- 8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
- 9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
- 10 Hide your face from my sins *and blot out all my iniquities

51 *Miserere mei, Deus (cont.)*

- 11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.
- 12 Cast me not away from your presence *
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
- 13 Give me the joy of your saving help again *
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
- 14 I shall teach your ways to the wicked, *
and sinners shall return to you.
- 15 Deliver me from death, O God, *
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
O God of my salvation.

- 16 Open my lips, O Lord, *
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
- 17 Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, *
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.
- 18 The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; *
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
- 19 Be favorable and gracious to Zion, *
and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
- 20 Then you will be pleased with the appointed sacrifices,
with burnt-offerings and oblations; *
then shall they offer young bullocks upon your altar.

52 *Quid gloriaris?*

- 1 You tyrant, why do you boast of wickedness *
against the godly all day long?
- 2 You plot ruin;
your tongue is like a sharpened razor, *
O worker of deception.
- 3 You love evil more than good *
and lying more than speaking the truth.
- 4 You love all words that hurt, *
O you deceitful tongue.
- 5 Oh, that God would demolish you utterly, *
topple you, and snatch you from your dwelling,
and root you out of the land of the living!
- 6 The righteous shall see and tremble, *
and they shall laugh at him, saying,
- 7 "This is the one who did not take God for a refuge, *
but trusted in great wealth
and relied upon wickedness."
- 8 But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God; *
I trust in the mercy of God for ever and ever.
- 9 I will give you thanks for what you have done *
and declare the goodness of your Name in the presence
of the godly.

Tenth Day: Evening Prayer

53 *Dixit insipiens*

- 1 The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." *
All are corrupt and commit abominable acts;
there is none who does any good.
- 2 God looks down from heaven upon us all, *
to see if there is any who is wise,
if there is one who seeks after God.
- 3 Every one has proved faithless;
all alike have turned bad; *
there is none who does good; no, not one.
- 4 Have they no knowledge, those evildoers *
who eat up my people like bread
and do not call upon God?
- 5 See how greatly they tremble,
such trembling as never was; *
for God has scattered the bones of the enemy;
they are put to shame, because God has rejected them.
- 6 Oh, that Israel's deliverance would come out of Zion! *
when God restores the fortunes of his people
Jacob will rejoice and Israel be glad.

54 *Deus, in nomine*

- 1 Save me, O God, by your Name; *
in your might, defend my cause.
- 2 Hear my prayer, O God; *
give ear to the words of my mouth.
- 3 For the arrogant have risen up against me,
and the ruthless have sought my life, *
those who have no regard for God.
- 4 Behold, God is my helper; *
it is the Lord who sustains my life.
- 5 Render evil to those who spy on me; *
in your faithfulness, destroy them.
- 6 I will offer you a freewill sacrifice *
and praise your Name, O LORD, for it is good.
- 7 For you have rescued me from every trouble, *
and my eye has seen the ruin of my foes.

55 *Exaudi, Deus*

- 1 Hear my prayer, O God; *
do not hide yourself from my petition.
- 2 Listen to me and answer me; *
I have no peace, because of my cares.
- 3 I am shaken by the noise of the enemy *
and by the pressure of the wicked;
- 4 For they have cast an evil spell upon me *
and are set against me in fury.
- 5 My heart quakes within me, *
and the terrors of death have fallen upon me.
- 6 Fear and trembling have come over me, *
and horror overwhelms me.
- 7 And I said, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove! *
I would fly away and be at rest.
- 8 I would flee to a far-off place *
and make my lodging in the wilderness.
- 9 I would hasten to escape *
from the stormy wind and tempest."
- 10 Swallow them up, O Lord;
confound their speech; *
for I have seen violence and strife in the city.

55 *Exaudi, Deus (cont.)*

11 Day and night the watchmen make their rounds
upon her walls, *
but trouble and misery are in the midst of her.

12 There is corruption at her heart; *
her streets are never free of oppression and deceit.

13 For had it been an adversary who taunted me,
then I could have borne it; *
or had it been an enemy who vaunted
himself against me,
then I could have hidden from him.

14 But it was you, a man after my own heart, *
my companion, my own familiar friend.

15 We took sweet counsel together, *
and walked with the throng in the house of God.

16 Let death come upon them suddenly;
let them go down alive to the grave; *
for wickedness is in their dwellings, in their very midst.

17 But I will call upon God, *
and the LORD will deliver me.

55 *Exaudi, Deus (cont.)*

- 18 In the evening, in the morning, and at noonday,
I will complain and lament, *
and he will hear my voice.
- 19 He will bring me safely back from the battle
waged against me; *
for there are many who fight me.
- 20 God, who is enthroned of old, will hear me and
bring them down; *
they never change; they do not fear God.
- 21 My companion stretched forth his
hand against his comrade; *
he has broken his covenant.

- 22 His speech is softer than butter, *
but war is in his heart.
- 23 His words are smoother than oil, *
but they are drawn swords.
- 24 Cast your burden upon the LORD,
and he will sustain you; *
he will never let the righteous stumble.
- 25 For you will bring the bloodthirsty and deceitful *
down to the pit of destruction, O God.
- 26 They shall not live out half their days, *
but I will put my trust in you.

Eleventh Day: Morning Prayer

56 *Miserere mei, Deus*

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God,
for my enemies are hounding me; *
all day long they assault and oppress me.
- 2 They hound me all the day long; *
truly there are many who fight against me,
O Most High.
- 3 Whenever I am afraid, *
I will put my trust in you.
- 4 In God, whose word I praise,
in God I trust and will not be afraid, *
for what can flesh do to me?

- 5 All day long they damage my cause; *
their only thought is to do me evil.
- 6 They band together; they lie in wait; *
they spy upon my footsteps;
because they seek my life.
- 7 Shall they escape despite their wickedness? *
O God, in your anger, cast down the peoples.
- 8 You have noted my lamentation;
put my tears into your bottle; *
are they not recorded in your book?
- 9 Whenever I call upon you, my enemies will be put to flight;
this I know, for God is on my side.

56 Miserere mei, Deus (*cont.*)

- 10 In God the LORD, whose word I praise,
in God I trust and will not be afraid, *
for what can mortals do to me?
- 11 I am bound by the vow I made to you, O God; *
I will present to you thank-offerings;
- 12 For you have rescued my soul from death and my feet
from stumbling, *
that I may walk before God in the light of the living.

57 *Miserere mei, Deus*

- 1 Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful,
for I have taken refuge in you; *
in the shadow of your wings will I take refuge
until this time of trouble has gone by.
- 2 I will call upon the Most High God, *
the God who maintains my cause.
- 3 He will send from heaven and save me;
he will confound those who trample upon me; *
God will send forth his love and his faithfulness.

- 4 I lie in the midst of lions that devour the people; *
their teeth are spears and arrows,
their tongue a sharp sword.
- 5 They have laid a net for my feet,
and I am bowed low; *
they have dug a pit before me,
but have fallen into it themselves.
- 6 Exalt yourself above the heavens, O God, *
and your glory over all the earth.
- 7 My heart is firmly fixed, O God, my heart is fixed; *
I will sing and make melody.

57 Miserere mei, Deus (*cont.*)

- 8 Wake up, my spirit;
awake, lute and harp; *
I myself will waken the dawn.
- 9 I will confess you among the peoples, O LORD; *
I will sing praise to you among the nations.
- 10 For your loving-kindness is greater than the heavens, *
and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.
- 11 Exalt yourself above the heavens, O God, *
and your glory over all the earth.

58 *Si vere utique*

- 1 Do you indeed decree righteousness, you rulers? *
do you judge the peoples with equity?
- 2 No; you devise evil in your hearts, *
and your hands deal out violence in the land.
- 3 The wicked are perverse from the womb; *
liars go astray from their birth.
- 4 They are as venomous as a serpent, *
they are like the deaf adder which stops its ears,
- 5 Which does not heed the voice of the charmer, *
no matter how skillful his charming.
- 6 O God, break their teeth in their mouths; *
pull the fangs of the young lions, O LORD.
- 7 Let them vanish like water that runs off; *
let them wither like trodden grass.
- 8 Let them be like the snail that melts away, *
like a stillborn child that never sees the sun.
- 9 Before they bear fruit, let them be cut down like a brier; *
like thorns and thistles let them be swept away.
- 10 The righteous will be glad when they see the vengeance; *
they will bathe their feet in the blood of the wicked.
- 11 And they will say,
"Surely, there is a reward for the righteous; *
surely, there is a God who rules in the earth."

Eleventh Day: Evening Prayer

59 *Eripe me de inimicis*

1 Rescue me from my enemies, O God; *
protect me from those who rise up against me.

2 Rescue me from evildoers *
and save me from those who thirst for my blood.

3 See how they lie in wait for my life,
how the mighty gather together against me; *
not for any offense or fault of mine, O LORD.

4 Not because of any guilt of mine *
they run and prepare themselves for battle.

5 Rouse yourself, come to my side, and see; *
for you, LORD God of hosts, are Israel's God.

6 Awake, and punish all the ungodly; *
show no mercy to those who are faithless and evil.

7 They go to and fro in the evening; *
they snarl like dogs and run about the city.

8 Behold, they boast with their mouths
and taunts are on their lips; *
"For who," they say, "will hear us?"

9 But you, O LORD, you laugh at them; *
you laugh all the ungodly to scorn.

10 My eyes are fixed on you, O my Strength; *
for you, O God, are my stronghold.

59 *Eripe me de inimicis (cont.)*

11 My merciful God comes to meet me; *
God will let me look in triumph on my enemies.

12 Slay them, O God, lest my people forget; *
send them reeling by your might
and put them down, O Lord our shield.

13 For the sins of their mouths, for the words of their lips,
for the cursing and lies that they utter, *
let them be caught in their pride.

14 Make an end of them in your wrath; *
make an end of them, and they shall be no more.

15 Let everyone know that God rules in Jacob, *
and to the ends of the earth.

16 They go to and fro in the evening; *
they snarl like dogs and run about the city.

17 They forage for food, *
and if they are not filled, they howl.

18 For my part, I will sing of your strength; *
I will celebrate your love in the morning;

19 For you have become my stronghold, *
a refuge in the day of my trouble.

20 To you, O my Strength, will I sing; *
for you, O God, are my stronghold and my merciful God.

60 *Deus, repulisti nos*

- 1 O God, you have cast us off and broken us; *
you have been angry;
oh, take us back to you again.
- 2 You have shaken the earth and split it open; *
repair the cracks in it, for it totters.
- 3 You have made your people know hardship; *
you have given us wine that makes us stagger.
- 4 You have set up a banner for those who fear you, *
to be a refuge from the power of the bow.
- 5 Save us by your right hand and answer us, *
that those who are dear to you may be delivered.
- 6 God spoke from his holy place and said: *
"I will exult and parcel out Shechem;
I will divide the valley of Succoth.
- 7 Gilead is mine and Manasseh is mine; *
Ephraim is my helmet and Judah my scepter.
- 8 Moab is my wash-basin,
on Edom I throw down my sandal to claim it, *
and over Philistia will I shout in triumph."
- 9 Who will lead me into the strong city? *
who will bring me to Edom?
- 10 Have you not cast us off, O God? *
you no longer go out, O God, with our armies.
- 11 Grant us your help against the enemy, *
for vain is the help of man.
- 12 With God we will do valiant deeds, *
and he shall tread our enemies under foot.