

Psalm 51

Prayer for Cleansing and Pardon

To the leader. A Psalm of David, when the prophet Nathan came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

1 Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy,
blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

4 Against you, you alone, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.

5 Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

6 You desire truth in the inward being;^[a]
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

8 Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right^[b] spirit within me.

11 Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing[c] spirit.

13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.

14 Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

15 O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

16 For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

17 The sacrifice acceptable to God[d] is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

18 Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem;

19 then you will delight in right sacrifices,
in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Psalm 96

Praise to God Who Comes in Judgment

1 O sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.

2 Sing to the LORD; bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.

3 Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples.

4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised;

he is to be revered above all gods.

5 For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.

6 Honor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

7 Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

8 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts.

9 Worship the LORD in holy splendor;
tremble before him, all the earth.

10 Say among the nations, "The LORD is king!
The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.
He will judge the peoples with equity."

11 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar and all that fills it; 12 let the field exult and everything in it.
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

13 before the LORD, for he is coming,
for he is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with his truth.

Psalm 71

Prayer for Lifelong Protection and Help

1 In you, O LORD, I take refuge;

let me never be put to shame.

2 In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;
incline your ear to me and save me.

3 Be to me a rock of refuge,
a strong fortress[a] to save me,
for you are my rock and my fortress.

4 Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.

5 For you, O Lord, are my hope,
my trust, O LORD, from my youth.

6 From my birth I have leaned upon you,
my protector since my mother's womb.[b]
My praise is continually of you.

7 I have been like a portent to many,
but you are my strong refuge.

8 My mouth is filled with your praise and with your glory all day long.

9 Do not cast me off in the time of old age;
do not forsake me when my strength is spent.

10 For my enemies speak concerning me,
and those who watch for my life consult together.

11 They say, "Pursue and seize that person
whom God has forsaken,
for there is no one to deliver."

12 O God, do not be far from me;
O my God, make haste to help me!

13 Let my accusers be put to shame and consumed;
let those who seek to hurt me
be covered with scorn and disgrace.

14 But I will hope continually
and will praise you yet more and more.

15 My mouth will tell of your righteous acts,
of your deeds of salvation all day long,
though their number is past my knowledge.

16 I will come praising the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD;
I will praise your righteousness, yours alone.

17 O God, from my youth you have taught me,
and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.

18 So even to old age and gray hairs,
O God, do not forsake me,
until I proclaim your might to all the generations to come.[c]

Your power 19 and your righteousness, O God,
reach the high heavens.

You who have done great things,
O God, who is like you?

20 You who have made me see many troubles and calamities
will revive me again;
from the depths of the earth
you will bring me up again.

21 You will increase my honor
and comfort me once again.

22 I will also praise you with the harp
for your faithfulness, O my God;
I will sing praises to you with the lyre,
O Holy One of Israel.

23 My lips will shout for joy
when I sing praises to you;
my soul also, which you have rescued.

24 All day long my tongue will talk of your righteous help,
for those who tried to do me harm
have been put to shame and disgraced.

Psalm 139

The Inescapable God

To the leader. Of David. A Psalm.

¹ O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

² You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.

³ You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.

⁵ You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

⁷ Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?

⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

⁹ If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.

¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,

and night wraps itself around me,"^[a]

¹² even the darkness is not dark to you;

the night is as bright as the day,

for darkness is as light to you.

¹³ For it was you who formed my inward parts;

you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works;

that I know very well.

¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you,

when I was being made in secret,

intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶ Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

In your book were written

all the days that were formed for me,

when none of them as yet existed.^[b]

¹⁷ How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!

How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸ I try to count them—they are more than the sand;

I come to the end^[c]—I am still with you.

¹⁹ O that you would kill the wicked, O God,

and that the bloodthirsty would depart from me—

²⁰ those who speak of you maliciously

and lift themselves up against you for evil!^[d]

²¹ Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD?

And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?

²² I hate them with perfect hatred;

I count them my enemies.

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart;

test me and know my thoughts.

²⁴ See if there is any wicked^[e] way in me,

and lead me in the way everlasting.^[f]

Psalm 8

Divine Majesty and Human Dignity

To the leader: according to The Gittith. A Psalm of David.

¹ O LORD, our Sovereign,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

² Out of the mouths of babes and infants

you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,

to silence the enemy and the avenger.

³ When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,

the moon and the stars that you have established;

⁴ what are humans that you are mindful of them,

mortals^[a] that you care for them?

⁵ Yet you have made them a little lower than God^[b]

and crowned them with glory and honor.

⁶ You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;

you have put all things under their feet,
⁷ all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
⁸ the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
⁹ O LORD, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
