

## Addressing God

'God' translates the Hebrew word for God (usually 'Elohim).

'God\*' translates the Hebrew word for lord ('Adonai). (38 times)

See, for example, Psalm 22 verse 30.

'GOD' (upper case) translates the Hebrew YHWH. (758 times)

When GOD is being addressed, I have sometimes replaced GOD with You.

See, for example Psalm 28 verse 7 and verse 8.

### Heading 1. Praying Psalm X with Jesus

This covers most of the psalms. The idea is to pray the psalms in Jesus' company, listening to him pray them, and joining him in prayer.

- Sometimes there are verses that Jesus cannot pray because they involve an admission of sin. However, we can pray them in his presence. Such verses are placed in brackets. See Psalm 69:5-6. If the whole psalm is a penitential one it is introduced with '**Praying Psalm X in Jesus' Company.**' See Psalm 51.

- Sometimes there are verses that Jesus cannot pray because the image of God presented is not the way Jesus experienced or revealed God. These verses have been omitted. If Jesus cannot pray such verses with us, they do not pass as Christian prayer. We listen as Jesus says: 'It was said to you of old, but I say to you' (Matthew 5:21-22). When many verses are omitted I sometimes use the heading: **Praying excerpts from Psalm X with Jesus.**

### Heading 2. Reflecting on Psalm X in Jesus' company

This introduces psalms that are not prayers. Since we are not attempting to make the sentiments of these psalms part of our own prayer, I saw no need to omit any verses and have presented them in Calibri Regular font, not in **Palatino Bold**. See Psalms 52, 73:1-22; 78. This heading also introduces psalms that are in the form of a prayer, but are basically a presentation of the Israelite version of the history of Israel, more legend than history, or psalms that are inappropriate on Jesus' lips. See Psalms 58, 60, 68, 74, 76, 79, 83 and 94.

## Praying Psalm 51 in Jesus' Company

<sup>1</sup>Be gracious to me, O God,  
according to your covenant love.  
According to your tender compassion,  
blot out my transgressions.

<sup>2</sup>Wash me more and more from my guilt;  
cleansing me from my sin.

<sup>3</sup>I know my transgressions;  
my sin is always before me.

<sup>4</sup>Against you, against you, I have sinned.  
What is evil in your sight I have done.

You are just in your sentence,  
blameless when you pass judgment.

<sup>5</sup>For it was into sin, into guilt, that I was born.

<sup>6</sup>Indeed you desire truth in the heart;  
then in the secret of my heart make me know wisdom.

<sup>7</sup>If you purge me, I will be purified.  
If you wash me, I will be whiter than snow.

<sup>8</sup>Let me hear rejoicing and gladness;  
let the bones you have crushed exult.

<sup>9</sup>Turn your face away from my sins,  
and blot out all my guilt.

<sup>10</sup>Create in me, O God, a purified heart,  
put a new and steadfast spirit within me.

**<sup>11</sup>Do not cast me away from your presence.  
Do not take from me your holy spirit.**

**<sup>12</sup>Give me again the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a generous spirit.**

**<sup>13</sup>Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will return to you.**

**<sup>14</sup>Rescue me, O God, my saviour,  
and I will sing aloud of your justice.**

**<sup>15</sup>O God\*, open my lips,  
and I will declare your praise.**

**<sup>16</sup>For you have no desire for sacrifice;  
if I were to give a burnt offering,  
you would not be pleased.**

**<sup>17</sup>My sacrifice is a contrite spirit;  
a broken, a crushed, heart, O God, you will not spurn.**

**<sup>18</sup>In your goodness show favour to Zion.  
Rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.**

**<sup>19</sup>Then you will delight in proper sacrifices,  
holocausts offered on your altar.**

## Reflecting on Psalm 52 in Jesus' Company

<sup>1</sup>O you who wield power, why do you boast  
of the evil you do against those who are  
faithful to the covenant?

<sup>2</sup>All day long you are plotting their destruction,  
slashing them with your razor tongue.

<sup>3</sup>You prefer evil to good.  
You choose to lie rather than speak the truth.

<sup>4</sup>With your deceitful tongue  
you love the destructive word.

<sup>5</sup>Very well, God will break you down  
and remove you forever.  
God will snatch you from your tent  
and uproot you from the land of the living.

<sup>6</sup>The just will watch in awe [fear],  
and laugh at those who do evil:

<sup>7</sup>'So this is the one who would not take refuge in God,  
but trusted in the power of wealth,  
and grew powerful through crime!'

<sup>8</sup>Here am I, like a green olive tree in the house of God.  
I have always trusted in the covenant love of God.

<sup>9</sup>I will thank you forever, because of what you have done.  
In the presence of the faithful I hope in you, for you are good.

## Praying Psalm 53 with Jesus

<sup>1</sup>Fools tell themselves 'There is no God.'  
They are corrupt. They perpetrate dreadful deeds.  
None of them does good.

<sup>2</sup>God looks down on the human race  
to see if there is anyone who is wise,  
anyone who seeks after God.

<sup>3</sup>They have all gone astray,  
they are all depraved.  
There is no one who seeks God, no, not one.

<sup>4</sup>Do they know nothing, these evildoers?  
They devour my people like so much bread.  
They never pray.

<sup>5</sup>*Well, then, they will be in great terror,  
in terror such as has never been.*

<sup>6</sup>O that deliverance for Israel would come from Zion!  
When God restores the fortunes of the people,  
then Jacob will be glad, and Israel rejoice.

## Praying Psalm 54 with Jesus

<sup>1</sup>O God, judge in my favour.

Use your power to save.

<sup>2</sup>Hear my prayer. Be attentive to my words.

<sup>3</sup>For the insolent rise up  
determined to destroy me.

The ruthless seek my life.

They have no regard for God.

<sup>4</sup>Surely, God comes to my aid;

God\* sustains my life.

<sup>6</sup>With a free heart I will sacrifice to you.

I will give thanks to you, O GOD, for you are good.

<sup>7</sup>You have rescued me from every danger.

## Praying Psalm 55 with Jesus

<sup>1</sup>Hear my prayer, O God, do not hide from my pleading.

<sup>2</sup>Attend to me and respond. With my cares, I cannot rest.

<sup>3</sup>I tremble at the shouting of the enemy.

They threaten. They attack.

They shout curses against me, giving vent to their fury.

<sup>4</sup>My heart is pounding, the terrors of death assail me.

<sup>5</sup>Fear and trembling come upon me.

Horror overwhelms me.

<sup>6</sup>If only I had the wings of a dove,

I would fly away and find rest.

<sup>7</sup>I would escape far away,

and take refuge in the wilderness.

<sup>8</sup>I would hurry to find shelter from the raging wind

and the devouring tempest,

from the raging torrent of their lying tongues.

<sup>9</sup>O God\* confuse them, confound their speech,

for I see violence and strife in the city.

<sup>10</sup>Day and night they patrol, high on the city walls.

Crime and injustice flourish inside.

<sup>11</sup>There are nothing but ruins in the city.

Cruelty and fraud are present wherever I look.

<sup>12</sup>If it were one of my enemies insulting me,

then I could bear it.

If it were an opponent who was behaving insolently

towards me, then I could walk away.

**<sup>13</sup>But it is you, my companion, my intimate friend!**

**<sup>14</sup>How close was the friendship that existed between us,  
as we walked together in harmony  
in the house of our God.**

**<sup>16</sup>As for me, I call upon God. GOD will save me.**

**<sup>17</sup>Evening, morning and noon I complain and lament.**

**<sup>18</sup>God will redeem me unharmed from the battle I wage.  
Many are arrayed against me, but God hears my cry.**

**<sup>20</sup>They have no reverence ['fear'] for God.**

**They betray their friends. They break the covenant.**

**<sup>21</sup>Their speech is softer than butter,  
but their heart is set on war.**

**Their words flow smoother than oil,  
but they are naked swords.**

**<sup>22</sup>Cast your burden on GOD, who will sustain you.**

**God will never permit the just to fall.**

**My God, I place all my trust in you.**



## Praying Psalm 56 with Jesus

<sup>1</sup>Be gracious to me, O God, for my enemies attack me.  
They trample me down.

<sup>2</sup>Wave after wave of them pursue me.  
They give me no respite as they bear down upon me.

<sup>1</sup>*I thank God, I praise God, and God's word.*

<sup>4</sup>*I trust in God, and am not afraid.*  
*What can mere mortals do to me?*

<sup>5</sup>All day long they discredit my words.  
Their only thought is to harm me.

<sup>6</sup>They band together in ambush.  
They track me down to take my life.

<sup>8</sup>You have kept an account of my turmoil.  
You have kept a record of my tears.

<sup>9</sup>My enemies will retreat when I call on you.  
This I know, that God is on my side.

<sup>10</sup>*I thank God, I praise God, and God's word.*

<sup>11</sup>*I trust in God, and am not afraid.*  
*What can mere mortals do to me?*

<sup>12</sup>I am bound by the vows I made to you, O God.  
I will carry them out, as I offer you my thanks.

<sup>13</sup>You have delivered me from death,  
you have kept my feet from stumbling,  
so that I may walk in the presence of God,  
and enjoy the light of the living.

## Praying Psalm 57 with Jesus

<sup>1</sup>Be gracious to me, O God, be gracious to me.

Where else can I hide?

In the shadow of your wings I take refuge,  
till the destructive storms pass by.

<sup>2</sup>I cry to you, God Most High,  
as you carry out for me your loving designs.

<sup>3</sup>Send from heaven to save me.  
Frustrate the desires of those who assail me.  
Send me your love that never fails.

<sup>4</sup>I am lying down among lions  
that greedily devour human prey;  
their teeth are spears and arrows,  
their tongue a sharpened sword.

<sup>5</sup>*Arise, O God, above the heavens. Let your glory shine on earth.*

<sup>6</sup>They set for me a net, a trap to ensnare me.  
They dug a pit in my path, but fell in it themselves.

<sup>7</sup>My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast.  
I will sing and make melody.

<sup>8</sup>Awake, my soul! Awake, harp and lyre!  
I will awake the dawn.

<sup>9</sup>I will thank you, O God\*, among the peoples;  
among the nations I will sing your praises.

<sup>10</sup>For your covenant love is as encompassing  
as the heavens; your faithfulness as the skies.

<sup>11</sup>*Arise, O God, above the heavens. Let your glory shine on earth.*

## Reflecting on Psalm 58 in Jesus' Company

The Church does not use this psalm in the liturgy.

There is a place in the prayer of a disciple of Jesus for wanting justice from God, but there is no place for wanting God to 'break the teeth' (verse 6) of one's enemies, or for longing for 'vengeance', and delighting in 'bathing one's feet in the blood of the wicked' (verse 10). Jesus could not pray this psalm, neither should a disciple.

<sup>1</sup>You gods, are your verdicts just?

Do you judge people fairly?

<sup>2</sup>No! In your hearts you devise crimes;  
you deal out violence on earth.

<sup>3</sup>The wicked go astray from the womb;  
they err, uttering lies from their birth.

<sup>4</sup>They have venom like that of a serpent,  
like the deaf adder that stops its ear

<sup>5</sup>lest it hear the sound of the snake charmer,  
expert in casting spells.

<sup>6</sup>O God, break their teeth.

GOD, tear out the fangs of the young lions!

<sup>7</sup>Let them drain away like water;  
let them be trodden down and wither like grass.

<sup>8</sup>Let them be like the snail that dissolves into slime;  
like the aborted foetus that never sees the sun.

<sup>9</sup>Sweep them away like bushes caught in a sudden whirlwind,

like wild beasts, like a funeral pyre!

<sup>10</sup>The just will rejoice when they see vengeance done.  
They will bathe their feet in the blood of the wicked.

<sup>11</sup>People will say, 'Surely there is a reward for the just;  
surely there is a God who judges the earth.'

## Praying excerpts from Psalm 59 with Jesus

<sup>1</sup>Rescue me, God, from my foes;  
protect me from those who rise up against me.

<sup>2</sup>Rescue me from those who do evil.  
Save me from those thirsting for my blood.

<sup>3</sup>They are out to take my life.  
They stir up strife against me.

<sup>4</sup>For no fault of mine, O GOD,  
they hasten and make ready to attack.  
Rouse yourself to my call, come and see!

<sup>5</sup>You, Mighty GOD, are God of Israel.

<sup>9</sup>O my strength, I watch for you.  
*For you, O God, are my fortress.*  
*You show me covenant love.*

<sup>10</sup>God goes before me  
and shows me the defeat of my enemies.

<sup>16</sup>As for me, I will sing of your might.  
Every morning I will acclaim your love.  
For you have been a fortress for me,  
a refuge in the day of my distress.

<sup>17</sup>O my strength, I will sing praises to you.  
*For you, O God, are my fortress.*  
*You show me covenant love.*

## Reflecting on Psalm 60 in Jesus' Company

The understanding of God as a Warrior Lord, the thinking that God controls what happens in history, and the attitude the psalmist has to enemies leave this psalm as an historical record, but not as a prayer for Jesus or a disciple.

<sup>1</sup>O God, you have rejected us. Our wall has been breached.

You are angry with us. We need you to return.

<sup>2</sup>You have caused the land to quake; you have torn it open.

Repair its cracks for it is tottering.

<sup>3</sup>You have made your people suffer a disaster.

You have given us a wine to drink that has made us reel.

<sup>4</sup>Set up a standard for those who revere you,

that they might rally to it out of bowshot.

<sup>5</sup>Give victory with your powerful arm,

so that those whom you love may be rescued.

<sup>6</sup>God has decreed from the sanctuary:

'I will triumph and divide up Shechem.

I will portion out the Vale of Succoth.

<sup>7</sup>Gilead is mine, and Manasseh.

Ephraim is my helmet; Judah is my commander's staff.

<sup>8</sup>Moab is my wash bowl; on Edom I plant my shoe.

Against me, Philistia, hurl forth a war cry if you dare!'

<sup>9</sup>Who will lead us to Edom to breach the city wall?

<sup>10</sup>God, will you still hold back? Will you desert our camp?

<sup>11</sup>Grant us help against the foe, for human help is of no avail.

<sup>12</sup>With God we will do valiantly. It is our God who will crush our foes.

## Praying Psalm 61 with Jesus

<sup>1</sup>Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer.

<sup>2</sup>From the end of the earth I call with a despondent heart.

Carry me high on a rock where they cannot reach me.

<sup>3</sup>You are my refuge, my bastion against the enemy.

<sup>4</sup>I want to abide in your tent forever,  
find refuge under the shelter of your wings.

<sup>5</sup>You, O God, have heard my vows.

You have given me the heritage  
that belongs to those who revere ['fear'] you.

<sup>6</sup>Prolong the life of the king;  
may his reign endure for generations!

<sup>7</sup>May your eyes always be upon him.  
May your covenant love and faithfulness watch over him.

<sup>8</sup>And I will continue to sing praises in your honour,  
as I fulfil my vows each day.

## Praying Psalm 62 with Jesus

<sup>1</sup>*Only in God can my soul find rest. In God alone is my salvation.*

<sup>2</sup>*God is my rock, my safety, my fortress. I will not be shaken.*

<sup>3</sup>How long will you keep up your attack?

How long will you batter your victim

as you batter a leaning wall, or a tottering fence?

<sup>4</sup>Their only plan is to bring a person down.

They take pleasure in falsehood.

With their mouths they utter blessings,

but in their hearts they curse.

<sup>5</sup>*Only in God can my soul find rest. In God alone is my hope.*

<sup>6</sup>*God is my rock, my safety, my fortress. I will not be shaken.*

<sup>7</sup>In God is my salvation and my glory,

my stronghold, my haven.

<sup>8</sup>Trust God at all times, O people.

Before God, our refuge, pour out your hearts.

<sup>9</sup>Common folk are but a breath,

those of high estate a delusion.

Placed in the scales, up they go;

they weigh less than a breath.

<sup>10</sup>Put no trust in extortion. Set no vain hopes on fraud.

If your wealth increases, do not set your hearts on it.

<sup>11</sup>Time and again God has said:

‘Strength and love are mine to give.’

Covenant love belongs to you, O God\*, our shield.

<sup>13</sup>You repay each of us according to what we have done.



## Praying Psalm 63 with Jesus

<sup>1</sup>O God, you are my God, for you I rise at dawn.  
My soul thirsts for you. My body ['flesh'] pines for you,  
like a dry, weary, waterless land.

<sup>2</sup>I gaze on you in the sanctuary,  
to behold your power and your glory.

<sup>3</sup>Your love is worth more than life.  
My lips will sing your praise.

<sup>4</sup>I will bless you as long as I live.  
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

<sup>5</sup>I am filled as with a banquet.  
I praise you with joy.

<sup>6</sup>I think of you as I lie awake,  
meditating on you throughout the night.

<sup>7</sup>You have been my help.  
In the shade of your wings I sing for joy.

<sup>8</sup>I cling to you with all my heart.  
Your right hand holds me fast.

## Praying Psalm 64 with Jesus

<sup>1</sup>Hear my cry, O God. Listen to my complaint.

I am afraid. Please keep me safe.

<sup>2</sup>Hide me from the secret plots of the wicked,  
from the scheming of those set on evil.

<sup>3</sup>They sharpen their tongues like swords.  
Like arrows they aim their cutting words.

<sup>4</sup>They ambush the innocent.  
They shoot suddenly and have no fear.

<sup>5</sup>They hold fast to their evil purpose.  
They talk of laying hidden snares:

<sup>6</sup>'Who can see us?' they say,  
'Our scheme is cunningly conceived.'

<sup>7</sup>It is God, who searches the mind  
and knows the depths of the heart.

<sup>10</sup>The just rejoice and find refuge in GOD.  
The upright of heart sing praise.

## Praying Psalm 65 with Jesus

<sup>1</sup>To you our praise is due, to you who dwell in Zion.

<sup>2</sup>We make our vows to you, our God,  
to you who answer our prayer.

<sup>3</sup>We come to you, all of us, with our burden of guilt.  
Our transgressions overwhelm us,  
but you continue to pardon.

<sup>4</sup>Blessed and happy are those whom you bring near  
to live in your courts.  
We are filled with the goodness of your house,  
with the graces of your holy temple.

<sup>5</sup>By awesome deeds you answer us with justice,  
O God our saviour.  
You are the hope of the ends of the earth  
and of the far distant isles.

<sup>6</sup>By your power you establish the mountains,  
you who are girded with might.

<sup>7</sup>You silence the roaring of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves, and the tumult of the peoples.

<sup>8</sup>Those who live at earth's farthest bounds  
are overawed by your signs.  
The lands of sunrise and sunset you fill with your joy.

<sup>9</sup>You tend the land, providing it with water.  
How wonderful the harvest!  
Your river in heaven brims over  
to give the earth what it needs.

**<sup>10</sup>You water abundantly the furrows, levelling their ridges,  
softening them with showers and blessing their growth.**

**<sup>11</sup>You crown the year with your bounty.  
Your furrows overflow with abundance.**

**<sup>12</sup>The pastures of the wilderness flourish.**

**The hills are girded with joy,**

**<sup>13</sup>the meadows are clothed with flocks,  
the valleys are decked with grain.**

**They shout for joy. Yes, they sing.**

## Praying Psalm 66 with Jesus

<sup>1</sup>Cry out with joy all the earth,  
<sup>2</sup>make music and sing of God's glory.

Give God glorious praise!

<sup>3</sup>Sing, 'How tremendous your deeds!  
Because of your great power,  
your enemies cringe before you.

<sup>4</sup>Before you all the earth will bow,  
praising you in song.'

<sup>5</sup>Come and see God's wonders,  
God's tremendous deeds among us.

<sup>6</sup>It was God who formed dry land in the sea  
to enable the people to cross.

<sup>7</sup>Let our joy be in God who reigns for ever with might.  
God keeps watch on all the nations.  
Let rebels not raise their heads!

<sup>8</sup>Bless our God, you peoples.  
Let praise ring out in honour of God,  
<sup>9</sup>who has kept alive our spirits,  
and kept our feet from stumbling.

<sup>12</sup>We passed through fire and water;  
but you brought us relief.

<sup>13</sup>I come into your house with offerings,  
animals from my herd,  
<sup>14</sup>to carry out the promises I made you,  
when I found myself in trouble.

**<sup>15</sup>I will offer you burnt offerings,  
with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams, bulls and goats.**

**<sup>16</sup>All you who revere ['fear'] God come and hear,  
and I will proclaim what God has done for me.**

**<sup>17</sup>I cried aloud, praising God.**

**<sup>19</sup>And God listened, heeding the words of my prayer.**

**<sup>20</sup>Blessed are you, O God, for you did not reject my plea,  
or remove from me your covenant love.**

## Praying Psalm 67 with Jesus

<sup>1</sup>O God be gracious to us and bless us,  
show us the radiance of your face,  
<sup>2</sup>that your way may be known on earth,  
your saving power among the nations.

<sup>3</sup>*Let the nations praise you, O God;  
let all the nations praise you.*

<sup>4</sup>May the whole world be glad  
and sing for joy,  
for you judge the peoples with equity,  
you govern the nations of the earth.

<sup>5</sup>*Let the nations praise you, O God;  
let all the nations praise you.*

<sup>6</sup>The earth has yielded its harvest.  
Our God is blessing us.

<sup>7</sup>O God continue your blessing.  
Let the whole world revere you.

<sup>8</sup>*Let the nations praise you, O God;  
let all the nations praise you.*

## Reflecting on Psalm 68 in Jesus' Company

Psalm 68 is not a psalm that would find an echo in the heart of Jesus. The God Jesus knows is not a Warrior Lord (verses 11-14, 17-18) who 'gallops over the plain' (verse 4), and 'scatters the enemy' (verse 1). Jesus does not want to see 'the wicked perish at the presence of God' (verse 2; see verse 21). He does not want us to 'bathe our feet in blood, that the tongues of our dogs may have their share of the foe' (verse 23). He does not 'shatter the heads of our enemies, who walk in their sinful ways' (verse 21). On the contrary he teaches us to love our enemies, because God loves them (see Matthew 5:44-48).

<sup>1</sup>God rises up. The enemy scatters.

Let those who hate God flee.

<sup>2</sup>As smoke is blown away, so let them disappear.

As wax melts before the fire,

so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.

<sup>3</sup>The just are filled with joy. They exult before God.

They celebrate with jubilant song, making music in God's honour.

<sup>4</sup>Lay down a road for the One who gallops over the plain.

GOD is with us. Let us all rejoice!

<sup>5</sup>Father of orphans and protector of widows

is God in the temple: the holy habitation.

<sup>6</sup>God gives the desolate a home, leads prisoners to freedom.

The rebellious are banished to dwell in a parched land.

<sup>7</sup>O God, you went out at the head of your people.

The earth quaked when you marched through the desert.



<sup>8</sup>The heavens poured down rain,  
at the presence of the God of Sinai,  
at the presence of the God of Israel.

<sup>9</sup>You showered down a generous rain,  
restoring the land, your heritage, when it languished.

<sup>10</sup>It is there your flock found a home.  
In your goodness you provided for the poor.

<sup>11</sup>God\* sounds the war cry.  
Great is the company of those who bear the tidings:

<sup>12</sup>'Kings, armies, they flee, they flee!'  
Houses and farms are divided as spoil –  
and you stay among the sheepfolds!  
Come, share the plunder:

<sup>13</sup>silver plated doves with wings of bright gold.

<sup>14</sup>The Almighty scatters kings, like snow on Mount Zalmon.

<sup>15</sup>O mighty mountain, mountain of Bashan.  
O many-peaked mountain.

<sup>16</sup>Why do you look with envy,  
at the mountain where God has chosen to dwell?  
It is there that GOD will dwell for ever.

<sup>17</sup>With chariots by the thousand, tens of thousands of archers,  
God (the Lord) came from Sinai into the holy place.

<sup>18</sup>You ascended the high mount, leading captives in your train,  
receiving peoples as tribute, into your holy dwelling.

<sup>19</sup>Blessed be God\*, who daily bears us up.

<sup>20</sup>God is for us our Saviour. It is GOD who liberates from death,

<sup>21</sup>who shatters the heads of our enemies,  
as they walk in their sinful ways.

<sup>22</sup>God\* said, 'I will bring them back from Bashan,  
back from the depths of the sea.

<sup>23</sup>that you may bathe your feet in blood,  
that the tongues of your dogs may have their share of the foe.'

<sup>24</sup>They witness your solemn procession,  
the procession of God into the sanctuary:

<sup>25</sup>singers in front, musicians behind,  
between them girls sounding their timbrels.

<sup>26</sup>Bless God in the great congregation.  
Bless GOD in the assembly of Israel.

<sup>27</sup>There is Benjamin, the least of them, at the head,  
the princes of Judah in great numbers,  
the princes of Zebulun, the princes of Naphtali.

<sup>28</sup>Issue your commands, O God, from your temple in Jerusalem.

<sup>29</sup>Reveal your great power, as you have done for us before.  
Kings bear tribute to you.

<sup>30</sup>Rebuke the wild animals that live among the reeds,  
the herds of bulls, the calves of the peoples.  
They fall prostrate before you those who lust after tribute.  
Scatter the peoples who delight in war.

<sup>31</sup>Let bronze be brought from Egypt.  
Let Sudan hasten to stretch out its hands to God.

<sup>32</sup>Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to God (the Lord),  
<sup>33</sup>who rides through the ancient heavens,  
causing his mighty voice to thunder.

<sup>34</sup>Acknowledge the power of God who governs Israel;  
whose authority is in the storm clouds.

<sup>35</sup>Awesome is God in the sanctuary, the God of Israel;  
giving power and strength to the people. Blessed be our God!

## Praying Psalm 69 with Jesus

<sup>1</sup>Save me, O God. The waters have risen to my neck.

<sup>2</sup>I sink into the mud, and can gain no foothold.

You can see that I am struggling.

The waters overwhelm me.

<sup>3</sup>I am weary with all my crying. Parched is my throat.

My eyes are swollen from looking for my God.

<sup>4</sup>More numerous than the hairs of my head  
are those who hate me without cause.

Those who attack me with lies  
are too much for my strength.

How can I restore what I did not take?

[<sup>5</sup>O God, you know my folly;  
the wrong I have done is not hidden from you.

<sup>6</sup>O God\*, do not let those who hope in you  
be put to shame because of me.

Do not let those who seek you  
be dismayed because of me.]

<sup>7</sup>It is for your sake that I have borne reproach,  
that shame has covered my face.

<sup>8</sup>I have become a stranger to my family,  
an alien to my mother's children.

<sup>9</sup>Zeal for your house has consumed me;  
the insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.

<sup>10</sup>When I humbled myself with fasting,  
they insulted me for doing so.

<sup>11</sup>When I made sackcloth my clothing,  
I became the butt of their jokes,

<sup>12</sup>the gossip of those who sit at the gates,  
the subject of drunkard's songs.

<sup>13</sup>I make my prayer to you, my prayer for your favour.  
In your great love, answer me, O God,  
with your help that never fails.

<sup>14</sup>Rescue me from sinking in the mire,  
from the deep waters.

<sup>15</sup>Let not the flood engulf me, or death swallow me up.

<sup>16</sup>Answer me, O GOD, in your great covenant love,  
according to your tender compassion.

<sup>17</sup>Do not hide your face from your servant,  
for I am in distress – make haste to answer me.

<sup>18</sup>Come close. I long for you.  
Redeem me. Free me from my enemies.

<sup>19</sup>You know the insults I receive. You know all my foes.

<sup>20</sup>Insults have broken my heart.  
I have reached the end of my strength.  
I looked in vain for compassion,  
for comforters, but none could I find.

<sup>21</sup>They gave me poison for food,  
and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

**<sup>29</sup>I am brought low and in pain.**

**Let your salvation, O God, protect me.**

**<sup>30</sup>Then I will praise your name in song;**

**I will acknowledge your greatness with thanksgiving.**

**<sup>31</sup>This will please GOD more than oxen,**

**more than beasts prepared for sacrifice.**

**<sup>32</sup>Let the oppressed see it and be glad.**

**You who seek God, let your hearts revive.**

**<sup>33</sup>For GOD hears the needy,**

**and does not despise those who are in bonds.**

**<sup>34</sup>Let heaven and earth praise God,**

**the sea and all its living creatures.**

**<sup>35</sup>For God will rescue Zion and rebuild the cities of Judah.**

**The servants of the Lord will live there;**

**the land will be their possession.**

**<sup>36</sup>Their offspring will inherit it,**

**and those who love God will dwell there.**

## Praying Psalm 70 with Jesus

<sup>1</sup>O God, hurry to free me.

O GOD, make haste to help me.

<sup>2</sup>Let all those who seek my life  
be put to shame and confusion.

Let those who seek to harm me  
be repulsed and disgraced.

<sup>3</sup>Let those who jeer at me (Aha!)  
be turned back in shame.

<sup>4</sup>Let there be rejoicing and gladness  
for all who seek you.

Let those who love your saving presence  
say continually, 'God is great!'

<sup>5</sup>As for me, I am poor and needy;  
hasten to me, O God!  
You are my help and my deliverer;  
O GOD, do not delay.

## Praying Psalm 71 with Jesus

<sup>1</sup>In you, O GOD, I seek refuge; I pray you do not fail me.

<sup>2</sup>In your justice set me free. Make me safe.

Come close to hear me.

<sup>3</sup>Be for me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress, to save me.

You are indeed my rock, my fortress.

<sup>4</sup>Rescue me, O God, from the hand of the wicked,  
from the grip of the violent.

<sup>5</sup>For you, O God\*, are my hope.

From my youth I have placed my trust in YOU.

<sup>6</sup>Upon you I have leaned from my birth.

It was you who took me from my mother's womb.

I will never stop praising you.

<sup>7</sup>Many look on me in awe, seeing that you are my refuge.

<sup>8</sup>I am full of praise for you.

I can speak only good of you all day long.

<sup>9</sup>Do not cast me off now that I am old.

Do not forsake me now my strength is spent.

<sup>10</sup>My enemies speak ill of me,  
those who want my end conspire against me.

<sup>11</sup>'God has forsaken him, let us pursue him.

Let us seize him, for there is no one to defend him.'

<sup>12</sup>O God, do not leave me alone.

O my God, come quickly to help me!



**<sup>14</sup>I will continue to hope. I will praise you more and more.**

**All day long, however inadequate my words.**

**<sup>15</sup>I will tell of your saving help.**

**<sup>16</sup>I will praise the mighty deeds of our GOD.**

**I will praise your justice, yours alone.**

**<sup>17</sup>You have taught me from my youth**

**to praise your wondrous deeds.**

**<sup>18</sup>O God, do not forsake me,**

**now that I am old and my hair is grey.**

**I want to proclaim your power to the next generation.**

**<sup>19</sup>Your might and your justice reach to the highest heaven.**

**The great things that you have done**

**are as high as the heavens, O God.**

**Who can compare to you?**

**<sup>20</sup>You have brought me through many troubles.**

**I know you will do so again. You will restore my life.**

**<sup>21</sup>You will increase my honour,**

**and comfort me once again.**

**<sup>22</sup>I will 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.**

**<sup>23</sup>I will shout for joy. I will sing of how you saved me.**

**<sup>24</sup>All day long I will tell of your justice.**

## Praying Psalm 72 with Jesus

<sup>1</sup>O God, give *your* judgment to the king,  
*your* justice to the king's son,

<sup>2</sup>that he may judge *your* people with justice,  
and *your* poor with right judgment.

<sup>3</sup>May the mountains yield peace for the people.

<sup>4</sup>May the king defend the cause of the poor,  
help needy families, and crush the oppressor.

<sup>5</sup>May he live while the sun endures,  
as long as the moon lasts, from age to age.

<sup>6</sup>May he be like rain falling on the grass,  
like showers that water the earth.

<sup>7</sup>In his days may justice flourish  
and peace abound, until the moon fails.

<sup>12</sup>He rescues the needy when they call,  
and those who have no one to defend them.

<sup>13</sup>He has pity on the weak and needy, and saves them.

<sup>14</sup>He liberates them from oppression and violence  
for they are precious to him.

<sup>15</sup>Long may he live!

May prayer be made for him continually,  
and blessings invoked for him all day long.

<sup>16</sup>May there be abundance of grain in the land,  
waving to and fro to the tops of the mountains.

**May its fruit be luxuriant like that of Lebanon,  
and its sheaves like the grasses of the field.**

**<sup>17</sup>May his name be blessed for ever,  
his fame endure like the sun.  
May all nations in him be blessed,  
as they call down blessings upon him.**

**<sup>18</sup>Praised be GOD, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wondrous things.**

**<sup>19</sup>Praised be God's glorious name for ever.  
May God's glory fill all the earth. Amen. Amen.**

## Reflecting on Psalm 73:1-22 in Jesus' Company

<sup>1</sup>Truly our God is good to the upright,  
to those who are pure in heart.

<sup>2</sup>As for me, as I walked I almost stumbled,

<sup>3</sup>I was envious of the arrogant,  
of how those who disregarded God were prospering.

<sup>4</sup>They have no pain; their bodies are sound and sleek.

<sup>5</sup>They are not in trouble.

They are not stricken like other people.

<sup>6</sup>They wear pride as a necklace,  
violence covers them like a garment.

<sup>7</sup>Their eyes swell up as they live on the fat of the land.  
Their hearts are full of folly.

<sup>8</sup>They scoff with malice.

From on high they threaten oppression.

<sup>9</sup>They boast that heaven is on their side.

They lay claim to the world.

<sup>10</sup>People follow them and swallow what they say.

<sup>11</sup>They ask, 'How can God know?

Does the Most High take any notice?'

<sup>12</sup>Such are the wicked; at ease as they accumulate wealth.

<sup>13</sup>So why keep my heart clean, washing my hands in innocence,

<sup>14</sup>when I was stricken all day long, punished day after day.

<sup>15</sup>Then I said: 'If I should speak like that

I should abandon the faith of your people.'

<sup>16</sup>I strove to fathom this problem,  
too hard for me to understand.

<sup>17</sup>Then I penetrated the mystery of God,  
and understood where these people were heading.

<sup>21</sup>When my heart was embittered,  
when my feelings were disturbed,

<sup>22</sup>I was stupid and ignorant.  
I was like a brute beast toward you.

### **Praying Psalm 73:23-28 with Jesus**

<sup>23</sup>**Yet I am continually with you;  
you hold me by the hand.**

<sup>24</sup>**You guide me according to your plan.  
You carry me to a glorious destiny.**

<sup>25</sup>**Whom have I in heaven but you?  
What does the earth mean to me without you?**

<sup>26</sup>**My flesh and my heart may fail,  
but God is the strength of my heart  
and my portion forever.**

<sup>28</sup>**For me it is good to stay near you, my God.  
I have made you my refuge.  
I want to tell of all that you have done.**

## Reflecting on Psalm 74 in Jesus' Company

We may find ourselves struggling, like the psalmist, in the face of evil. However, Psalm 74 is not a psalm that Jesus could pray. It has some historical interest, but is hardly suitable for Christian prayer.

<sup>1</sup>O God, my God why do you leave us abandoned?

Why are you so angry against the sheep of your pasture?

<sup>2</sup>Remember your assembled people, whom you acquired long ago.

You freed us that we might be

the people who are closest to your heart.

Remember Mount Zion, where you established your dwelling.

<sup>3</sup>Come and look at where everything lies in ruin.

See the devastation the enemy has caused to your sanctuary.

<sup>4</sup>Your foes have lain waste the place of assembly.

They have set up their standards there.

<sup>5</sup>They have hacked their way in

as one takes an axe to the thickest part of the forest.

<sup>6</sup>With hatchets and hammers, they have smashed the woodwork.

<sup>7</sup>They set your sanctuary on fire; they desecrated your dwelling place.

<sup>8</sup>As they burnt it to the ground they cried:

'Exterminate the whole nation.

Burn all the meeting places of God in the land.'

<sup>9</sup>We have no signs from you.

There is no longer a prophet among us.

There is no one who knows how long this will last.

<sup>10</sup>How long, O God, is the foe to scoff?

Is the enemy to revile your name for ever?

<sup>11</sup>Why are you holding back,

keeping your powerful arm hidden from view?

<sup>12</sup>Yet you, O God, are our King from of old,  
bringing salvation to the land.

<sup>13</sup>You divided the sea by your might.  
You broke the heads of the dragons in the sea.

<sup>14</sup>You crushed the heads of Leviathan;  
you gave him as food for the creatures of the wilderness.

<sup>15</sup>You opened springs and torrents; you dried up flowing streams.

<sup>16</sup>Yours is the day, yours the night;  
you established the moon and the sun.

<sup>17</sup>You fixed all the bounds of the earth;  
you made summer and winter.

<sup>18</sup>O GOD, remember this. See how the enemy scoffs,  
and how a foolish people reviles your name.

<sup>19</sup>Do not hand over to the wild animals  
the life and hopes of your dove.  
Do not forget for ever the lives of your poor.

<sup>20</sup>Have regard for your covenant.  
The dark places of the land vomit forth violence.

<sup>21</sup>Do not let the downtrodden be defrauded.  
Let the poor and needy praise your name.

<sup>22</sup>Rise up, O God, plead your cause;  
remember how the impious scoff at you all day long.

<sup>23</sup>Do not forget the clamour of your foes,  
the uproar of your adversaries that is growing ever more strident.

## Praying Psalm 75 with Jesus

<sup>1</sup>We give you thanks, O God, as we invoke your name.  
We proclaim for all to hear your wondrous deeds.

<sup>2</sup>I, your God, choose the time to set things right.

<sup>3</sup>Even were the earth to totter,  
I will secure its foundations.

<sup>4</sup>I say to the boastful: "Stop your boasting!"  
and to the wicked, "Do not flaunt your power.

<sup>5</sup>Do not oppose the One on high,  
or insolently confront your God".'

<sup>6</sup>For justice is not from east or west,  
or the wilderness, or the mountains.

<sup>7</sup>It is God who executes judgment.

<sup>9</sup>As for me, I will rejoice forever.

I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.

<sup>10</sup>The strength of the just will be exalted.



## Reflecting on Psalm 76 in Jesus' Company

The image of God is of a warlord who is roused to fury against the enemies of Judah. This is not an image given us by Jesus.

<sup>1</sup>God, you are known everywhere in Judah,  
your fame is great in Israel.

<sup>2</sup>Your tent is pitched in Jerusalem,  
your command post on Mount Zion.

<sup>3</sup>There you break the flaming arrows,  
shield and sword, all weapons of war.

<sup>4</sup>You are resplendent, majestic with mountains of plunder.

<sup>5</sup>The stout-hearted are stripped of their spoil.  
They are dazed, unable to move.

<sup>6</sup>At your battle cry, O God of Jacob,  
both rider and horse lie stunned.

<sup>7</sup>You are awesome indeed!  
Who can stand before you once your anger is aroused?

<sup>8</sup>From the heavens you utter judgment.  
The earth reels, and is hushed in silence

<sup>9</sup>when you rise up as judge to defend the oppressed.

<sup>10</sup>When you are robed in fury,  
even warriors must praise you.

<sup>11</sup>Make your vows to GOD, your God.  
Carry out what you have promised.  
Bring your gifts to the one who is awesome,

<sup>12</sup>who cuts off the breath of princes,  
and inspires fear in the kings of the earth.

## Praying Psalm 77 with Jesus

<sup>1</sup>I cry aloud to God, cry aloud that God might hear me.

<sup>2</sup>In my anguish, I search for you, my God\*.

My hands are raised at night without ceasing;  
my soul refuses to be comforted.

<sup>3</sup>I remember God, and I moan;

I reflect, and my spirit faints.

<sup>4</sup>You withhold sleep from my eyes.

I am troubled and cannot speak.

<sup>5</sup>I consider the days of old,  
remembering years long gone.

<sup>6</sup>All night memories fill my heart,  
I ponder and my spirit keeps on questioning.

<sup>7</sup>Perhaps God\* will always reject me,  
and will never again turn and grace me?

<sup>8</sup>Perhaps God's covenant love to me is exhausted,  
God's promises have come to an end?

<sup>9</sup>Has God forgotten to be gracious?  
Can anger block God's mercy?

<sup>10</sup>I find myself saying: 'Woe is me!  
The power of the Most High has altered!'

<sup>11</sup>I remember your deeds, O GOD;  
yes, I recall your wonders of old.

<sup>12</sup>I reflect on all that you have done,  
and muse on your mighty deeds.

<sup>13</sup>Your way, my God, is holy. What god is great like you?

**<sup>14</sup>You are God who works wonders;**

**you display your might among the peoples.**

**<sup>15</sup>With your strong arm you redeem your people,  
the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.**

**<sup>16</sup>Seeing you the waters churned,  
shuddering, writhing, convulsed to the depths.**

**<sup>17</sup>Clouds poured down rain.**

**Thunder shook the heavens,**

**Lightning darted like arrows.**

**<sup>18</sup>Your thunder rolled round the sky,  
your lightning lit up the world.  
The earth trembled and shook.**

**<sup>19</sup>Your way led through the sea,  
your path through the mighty waters;  
yet no one saw your footprints.**

**<sup>20</sup>You led your people like a flock  
by the hand of Moses and Aaron.**

## Reflecting on Psalm 78 in Jesus' Company

This is not a prayer. It is largely a presentation of the narrative of Ancient Israel's 'history', from the perspective of Judah.

<sup>1</sup>Listen, O my people, to my teaching;  
attend to the words I speak.

<sup>2</sup>I speak of what we have heard from of old,

<sup>3</sup>what we have known from our ancestors.

<sup>4</sup>We must not keep it from our children;  
we must tell the coming generation  
of the glorious deeds of GOD,

<sup>5</sup>who established a law in Israel  
and commanded our ancestors  
to make it known to their children,

<sup>6</sup>so that future generations would know it,  
and grow up to teach it to their young.

<sup>7</sup>We are to place our hope in God,  
and never forget what God has done.  
We must keep God's commandments.

<sup>8</sup>We must not follow the example of our ancestors.  
They were stubborn and rebellious,  
fickle and unfaithful to God.

<sup>9</sup>We should not follow the example of the people of Ephraim.  
Their archers abandoned the field on the day of battle.

<sup>10</sup>They broke the covenant, refusing to obey God's law.

<sup>11</sup>They forgot God's wonderful deeds.

<sup>12</sup>Our ancestors witnessed what God did in the land of Egypt,  
in the fields of Zoan.

<sup>13</sup>how the sea was divided for their escape,  
and the waters were raised up like a wall. [Exodus 14:22]

<sup>14</sup>By day God led them with a cloud, by night with a glowing fire.

<sup>15</sup>God split rocks open in the wilderness, to quench their thirst.

<sup>16</sup>Streams gushed forth, flowing like a river. [Exodus 17]

<sup>17</sup>Yet they continued to rebel.

<sup>18</sup>Willfully they put God to the test,  
by demanding the food they craved. [Numbers 11:4-6]

<sup>19</sup>They complained, 'Is it possible for God  
to spread a table in the wilderness?'

<sup>20</sup>It was God who struck the rock and caused water to flow.  
Yet they dared to ask, 'What about bread and meat?'

<sup>21</sup>Hearing this, GOD was filled with rage;  
God's anger flared against Israel,

<sup>22</sup>because they had no faith in God.  
They did not trust God's power to save.

<sup>23</sup>In spite of this, God commanded the skies,  
and opened the doors of heaven,

<sup>24</sup>raining down manna for them to eat,  
giving them bread from heaven.

<sup>25</sup>Mortal human beings ate the bread of angels.  
God sent them food in abundance. [Exodus 16]

<sup>26</sup>A wind blew from heaven, scattering meat like driven dust.

<sup>27</sup>God gave them winged birds, as many as the sands of the sea.

<sup>28</sup>They fell in the middle of the camp, all around the tents.

<sup>29</sup>The people ate and were satisfied,  
for God gave them what they craved.

<sup>30</sup>But before they had satisfied their craving,  
while the food was still in their mouths,

<sup>31</sup>God slew the strongest among them,  
struck down the flower of Israel.

<sup>32</sup>Despite this they kept on sinning,  
blind to God's wonderful deeds.

<sup>33</sup>So God cut their lives short;  
their days ended like a breath.

<sup>34</sup>Surely now they would begin to pray.  
Surely now they would repent and seek God in earnest.

<sup>35</sup>They would remember that God is their rock,  
the Most High God is their redeemer.

<sup>36</sup>They spoke fine words to God,  
but their lives belied their words.

<sup>37</sup>Their hearts were not steadfast toward God.  
They were not true to the covenant.

<sup>38</sup>Yet God, who is full of compassion,  
forgave their sin, and they were spared.

<sup>39</sup>Again and again God did not give way to wrath,  
remembering that they were but flesh,  
no more than a breath of air that passes, never to return.

<sup>40</sup>How often they rebelled in the wilderness, [Numbers 16:41, 20:24]  
and caused God pain in the desert!

<sup>41</sup>They tested God again and again,  
and provoked the Holy One of Israel.

<sup>42</sup>They did not remember God's deeds:  
when God redeemed them from the foe.

<sup>43</sup>God displayed signs in Egypt,  
and worked miracles in the fields of Zoan: [Exodus 7-12]

<sup>44</sup>turning rivers to blood,  
so that the Egyptians could not drink of their streams;

<sup>45</sup>sending among them swarms of flies,  
and frogs to molest them;

<sup>46</sup>giving their crops to the caterpillar,  
and the fruit of their labour to the locust;

<sup>47</sup>destroyed their vines by hail,  
and their sycamores by frost;

<sup>48</sup>hurling down hail on their cattle,  
and lightning bolts on their flocks.

<sup>49</sup>Seething, raging with fury,  
God let loose strife and destruction.

<sup>50</sup>These were messengers of doom,  
for they were not spared even from death.

God abandoned them to the plague.

<sup>51</sup>and slew all the firstborn in Egypt.

<sup>52</sup>Then God led his people in safety,  
guiding them through the wilderness like a flock.

<sup>53</sup>They were not afraid,  
for the sea had overwhelmed their enemies. [Exodus 15:5, 10]

<sup>54</sup>God led them to the holy land,  
to the mountain won by God's arm. [Exodus 19]

<sup>55</sup>God dislodged the nations, giving Israel their land,  
settling the tribes in their tents.

Archaeology has established that Israel formed in Canaan, not by mass ethnic cleansing, but by the conversion of the inhabitants of the highlands to GOD.

<sup>56</sup>Still they rebelled against the Most High,  
testing their God, refusing to obey.

<sup>57</sup>They turned away and were faithless like their ancestors,  
like a bow on which the archer cannot rely.

<sup>58</sup>They built shrines in high places,  
and worshipped images they had carved. [Judges 10:6-7]

<sup>59</sup>God saw and was enraged, and utterly rejected Israel.

<sup>60</sup>God deserted the shrine in Shiloh, [1 Samuel 4; Jeremiah 7:14]  
and no longer dwelt with the people.

<sup>61</sup>God abandoned the ark,  
letting it fall into the hands of the enemy.

<sup>62</sup>Stirred with anger, God condemned Israel to the sword.

<sup>63</sup>Fire devoured their young men.  
There were no marriage songs for the maidens.

<sup>64</sup>Their priests fell by the sword,  
and their widows made no lamentation.

<sup>65</sup>It was as though God\* awoke from sleep,  
shouting like a warrior affected by wine.

<sup>66</sup>God attacked them like foes, heaping shame upon them.

<sup>67</sup>God rejected Joseph, and turned his gaze from Ephraim.

<sup>68</sup>choosing the tribe of Judah, looking with love on Mount Zion.

<sup>69</sup>There God built his sanctuary, exalted like the heavens,  
securely established like the earth.



<sup>70</sup>God chose David as servant,  
and called him from tending the flocks.

<sup>71</sup>He was chosen to shepherd Jacob,  
God's treasured possession.

<sup>72</sup>He acted with an upright heart;  
with a discerning mind he led them.

## Reflecting on Psalm 79 in Jesus' Company

The Holy Land has been devastated by an invading army. The psalmist pleads with God to defend God's honour by intervening to save the people and punish the invaders. This is not a psalm that Jesus could pray. Firstly, the psalmist sees the devastation of Jerusalem as proof of God's anger (verse 5). Secondly, it is a plea for God to 'avenge the blood of your servants' (verse 10). As disciples of Jesus we join the psalmist in turning to God when faced with a catastrophe, but hopefully with better sentiments.

<sup>1</sup>O God, the nations invade your land.

They defile your holy temple, and destroy Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup>They expose the bodies of your servants to the birds of the air,  
the flesh of your faithful to scavengers.

<sup>3</sup>They pour out blood like water all around Jerusalem,  
and there is no one to bury the dead.

<sup>4</sup>We are a taunt to our neighbours,  
mocked and derided by those around us.

<sup>5</sup>How long, O GOD? Will you be angry forever?  
Will your jealous wrath continue to burn like fire?

Verses 6-7 are not in the liturgy

<sup>6</sup>Pour out your anger on the nations that do not know you,  
on the kingdoms that do not call on your name.

<sup>7</sup>For they have devoured Jacob and laid waste his habitation.

<sup>8</sup>Do not hold against us the guilt of our ancestors.

Let your tender compassion come speedily to meet us,  
for we are brought very low.

<sup>9</sup>Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name.  
Deliver us, and forgive our sins.

<sup>10</sup>Why should the nations say, 'Where is their God?'  
Let us see you punishing them,  
avenging the blood of your servants.

<sup>11</sup>Let the groans of the prisoners come before you.  
According to your great power preserve those doomed to die.

Verse 12 is not in the liturgy

<sup>12</sup>Repay our neighbours seven times  
for the way they taunted you, O God\*!

<sup>13</sup>We your people, the flock of your pasture,  
will give you endless thanks.  
From generation to generation  
we will continue to praise you.

## Praying Psalm 80 with Jesus

<sup>1</sup>Listen, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you who lead the flock of Joseph.  
Shine forth from your cherubim throne,  
<sup>2</sup>upon Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.  
Stir up your might! Come now and save us!

<sup>3</sup>*Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine on us and we will be saved.*

<sup>4</sup>Mighty GOD, how long will you frown on your people's plea?  
<sup>5</sup>For food you give us weeping,  
an abundance of tears for our drink.

<sup>6</sup>You make us the taunt of our neighbours  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

<sup>7</sup>*Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine on us and we will be saved.*

<sup>8</sup>You brought a vine out of Egypt.  
To plant it you drove out the nations.  
<sup>9</sup>Before it you cleared the ground.  
It took root and spread through the land.

<sup>10</sup>The mountains were covered with its shade,  
the mighty cedars with its branches.  
<sup>11</sup>It sent out its branches to the sea,  
its shoots even to the Euphrates.

**<sup>12</sup>Why then have you broken down its walls?**

**It is plucked by all who pass by.**

**<sup>13</sup>It is ravaged by the boar from the forest,  
devoured by the beasts of the field.**

**<sup>14</sup>Turn again, O mighty God, we implore,  
look down from heaven, and see.**

**<sup>15</sup>Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted.**

**<sup>16</sup>They have burned it with fire and destroyed it.  
May they perish at the frown of your face.**

**<sup>17</sup>Let your right hand be upon the one you have chosen,  
the one you have given your strength.**

**<sup>18</sup>And we will never again forsake you.  
Give us life that we may call on your name.**

**<sup>19</sup>*Restore us, O mighty GOD;  
let your face shine on us and we will be saved.***

## Praying Psalm 81 with Jesus

<sup>1</sup>Sing aloud to God, our strength;  
shout for joy to the God of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup>Raise a song, and sound the timbrel,  
the sweet sounding harp and the lute.

<sup>3</sup>Blow the trumpet at the new moon,  
and when the moon is full, on our feast.

<sup>4</sup>For it is a statute for Israel,  
a command of the God of Jacob,  
<sup>5</sup>who decreed it for the house of Joseph,  
when we marched from Egypt.

<sup>6</sup>I hear a voice I had not known:  
'I relieved your shoulder of the burden;  
your hands were freed from the load.  
<sup>7</sup>You called in distress, and I rescued you.

I answered you, hidden within the thunder.  
I tested you at the waters of Meribah.  
<sup>8</sup>Hear, O my people, while I admonish you.  
O Israel, if only you would heed!

<sup>9</sup>There are to be no strange gods among you;  
you will not bow down to an alien god.  
<sup>10</sup>I am your GOD. It was I who rescued you from Egypt,  
I fed you when you were hungry.  
<sup>11</sup>But my people would not listen to my voice.  
Israel, you would not obey.  
<sup>12</sup>So I left you to your stubborn hearts,  
to follow your own designs.

**<sup>13</sup>O that my people would heed me.**

**Israel, if only you would walk in my ways!**

**<sup>14</sup>At once I would subdue your foes,**

**and use my power against your enemies.**

**<sup>15</sup>Those who hate me would cringe before you,**

**and their doom would last forever.**

**<sup>16</sup>And you, Israel, I would feed on the finest wheat,**

**and on honey from the rock.'**

## Praying Psalm 82 with Jesus

<sup>1</sup>God has taken his place in the council of the gods.

It is there God holds judgment:

<sup>2</sup>How long will you judge unjustly  
and show partiality to the wicked?

<sup>3</sup>Give justice to the weak and the orphan;  
defend the lowly and the destitute.

<sup>4</sup>Rescue the weak and the needy;  
deliver them from the power of the wicked.'

<sup>5</sup>The gods know nothing.

They grope in the dark, while the world falls to pieces.

<sup>6</sup>I say: 'Although you are gods,  
all of you children of the Most High;

<sup>7</sup>nevertheless, you will share the fate of humans,  
and die like any prince.'

<sup>8</sup>Rise up, O God, judge the earth;  
for you rule all the nations.



## Reflecting on Psalm 83 in Jesus' Company

Psalm 83 is not in the liturgy. It is not a Christian prayer. We should recall that Jesus reveals a very different God, one who lets his sun and rain nurture all, the just and the unjust alike (see Matthew 5:45).

<sup>1</sup>O God, do not remain silent;

do not hold your peace and do nothing!

<sup>2</sup>Even now your enemies are in an uproar.

Those who hate you are confident in victory.

<sup>3</sup>They lay crafty plans against your people.

They consult together against those you protect.

<sup>4</sup>They say, 'Come, let us wipe out this nation;

let the name of Israel be remembered no more.'

<sup>5</sup>They conspire together. Against you they make a pact:

<sup>6</sup>Edom and Ishmael, Moab and Hagar,

<sup>7</sup>Gebal, Ammon, Amalek, Philistia and Tyre.

<sup>8</sup>Even Assyria has joined them

to increase the forces of the children of Lot.

<sup>9</sup>Do to them as you did to Midian, [Judges 6-8]

as you did to Sisera and Jabin at the Wadi Kishon. [Judges 4-5]

<sup>10</sup>Destroyed at En-dor, they became dung for the ground.

<sup>11</sup>Make their nobles like Oreb and Zeeb, [Judges 7:25; 8:31]

their princes like Zebah and Zalmunna, [Judges 8:5ff ]

<sup>12</sup>who said, 'Let us take the pastures of God for our own possession.'

<sup>13</sup>O my God, make them like whirling dust,

like chaff before the wind.

<sup>14</sup>As fire consumes the forest, as flame sets the mountains ablaze,

<sup>15</sup>so pursue them closely with your tempest

and terrify them with your hurricane.

<sup>16</sup>GOD, cover their faces with shame,  
so that they may seek your name.

<sup>17</sup>Let them be forever put to shame and dismayed.  
Let them perish in disgrace.

<sup>18</sup>Let them know that you alone, O GOD,  
are the Most High over all the earth.

## Praying Psalm 84 with Jesus

<sup>1</sup>How lovely is your dwelling place, O mighty GOD!

<sup>2</sup>How I long, how I am yearning, for the courts of GOD.  
My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

O Mighty GOD, my king and my God!

<sup>3</sup>Even the sparrow finds a home,  
and the swallow a nest for her brood,  
where she may lay her young by your altars.

<sup>4</sup>Blessed and happy are those who live in your house,  
ever singing your praise.

<sup>5</sup>Blessed and happy are those who draw their strength from you  
as they resolve to go to you on pilgrimage.

<sup>6</sup>As they go through the Baka' valley  
they enjoy a place of springs;  
the early rains cover it with pools.

<sup>7</sup>They go from garrison to garrison.  
In Zion they will see the God of gods.

<sup>8</sup>O Mighty GOD, hear my prayer;  
listen, O God of Jacob!

<sup>9</sup>God, our shield,  
look upon the face of your anointed.

<sup>10</sup>One day in your courts  
is better than a thousand elsewhere.  
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God  
than live in the tents of the wicked.

**<sup>11</sup>For GOD is our sun and shield,  
bestowing favour and glory.  
GOD never fails to bless  
those who walk with integrity.**

**<sup>12</sup>O Mighty GOD, blessed and happy are they  
who place their trust in you.**

## Praying Psalm 85 with Jesus

<sup>1</sup>O GOD, you favoured your land;  
you revived the fortunes of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup>You wiped away the guilt of your people.  
You covered over all their sins.

<sup>4</sup>Revive us, O God our Saviour.

<sup>7</sup>Show us your covenant love, O GOD,  
and grant us your salvation.

<sup>8</sup>Let me hear what GOD has to say,  
a voice that speaks of peace:  
peace to the people who turn to God in their hearts.

<sup>9</sup>Surely God's salvation is at hand for the faithful,  
and God's glory will fill our land.

<sup>10</sup>Covenant love and faithfulness have met;  
justice and peace have embraced.

<sup>11</sup>Faithfulness springs up from the ground,  
and justice looks down from heaven.

<sup>12</sup>GOD will give prosperity,  
and our land will yield its harvest.

<sup>13</sup>Justice clears a path for God.  
Justice points the way to peace.

## Praying Psalm 86 with Jesus

<sup>1</sup>Listen closely to me, O GOD,  
answer me, for I am poor and needy.

<sup>2</sup>Watch over me, for to you I am devoted.  
Save your servant, for I put my trust in you.

You are my God.

<sup>3</sup>Be gracious to me for to you I cry all day long.

<sup>4</sup>Give joy to your servant,  
for to you, God\*, I lift up my soul.

<sup>5</sup>You, my God\*, are good and forgiving,  
abounding in covenant love to all who call.

<sup>6</sup>Listen to my prayer; attend to my cry.

<sup>7</sup>In the day of my trouble I call on you,  
knowing you will answer me.

<sup>8</sup>There is none like you among the gods, O God\*.  
There are no deeds like yours.

<sup>9</sup>All the nations you formed will come  
and bow down before you.

They will glorify your name.

<sup>10</sup>For indeed you are great.

You do wondrous things; you who alone are God.

<sup>11</sup>Teach me your way, O GOD,  
that I may walk in your truth.

Give me an undivided heart  
that I may revere your name.

**<sup>12</sup>I thank you, my God, with all my heart,  
and I will honour you forever.**

**<sup>13</sup>For great is your covenant love toward me.  
You have rescued me from the grave.**

**<sup>14</sup>The insolent rise up against me;  
a band of ruffians seeks my life.  
They give no thought to you.**

**<sup>15</sup>But you are God.  
You are tenderly compassionate. You are gracious.  
You are slow to anger,  
abounding in covenant love and faithfulness.**

**<sup>16</sup>Turn to me and be gracious.  
Give your strength to your servant.  
Save the child of your serving girl.**

**<sup>17</sup>Show me a sign of your favour.  
So that those who hate me may see and be put to shame,  
because you, O GOD, are my salvation and my comfort.**

## Praying Psalm 87 with Jesus

<sup>1</sup>Zion is established on the holy mountain cherished by GOD,

<sup>2</sup>who prefers her gates to all the dwellings of Jacob.

<sup>3</sup>Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God.

<sup>4</sup>Egypt and Babylon I will count among her citizens;

Philistia, Tyre and Ethiopia are registered among her children.

<sup>5</sup>Zion will be called 'mother', for all will be her children.

It is the Most High who assigns each their place.

<sup>6</sup> GOD inscribes in the register of peoples:

'These are her children.'

<sup>7</sup>While they dance, they will sing:

'In you all find their home.'



## Praying excerpts from Psalm 88 with Jesus

<sup>1</sup>O GOD, my God, by day I plead for your help,  
by night, I cry out in your presence.

<sup>2</sup>Let my prayer reach you; heed my cry.

<sup>3</sup>I am steeped in trouble, on the brink of the grave.

<sup>4</sup>I am numbered among those who go down to the pit.

<sup>5</sup>My time is up and I am left to die,  
like the slain that lie in the field.

<sup>8</sup>I am shut in so that I cannot escape.

<sup>9</sup>My eyes are sunken with grief.  
All day long I call on you, O GOD,  
straining my hands towards you.

<sup>13</sup>O GOD, I cry to you for help;  
in the morning my plea comes before you.

<sup>14</sup>Why do you cast me off?  
Why do you hide your face?

## Praying Psalm 89 with Jesus

<sup>1</sup>I will sing for ever of your covenant love, O GOD.

I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

<sup>2</sup>I declare that your covenant love is as established as the heavens.

<sup>3</sup>You said: 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one,  
I have sworn to my servant David:

<sup>4</sup>"I will establish your dynasty for ever.

I will ensure your throne throughout the ages".'

<sup>5</sup>The heavens proclaim your wonders, O GOD,  
your faithfulness in the assembly of your holy ones.

<sup>6</sup>For who in the skies can be compared to you?

Who is like you, O GOD, among the beings of heaven?

<sup>7</sup>You are feared in the council of the holy ones,  
great and awesome throughout the court.

<sup>8</sup>O Mighty GOD, who is your equal?

You are clothed in power and faithfulness.

<sup>9</sup>You rule over the raging of the sea; you tame its swelling waves.

<sup>10</sup>You pierced and crushed the sea monster.

<sup>11</sup>The heavens are yours; yours is the earth;

the world and all that is in it – you have established it all!

<sup>12</sup>You created the north and the south.

Tabor and Hermon joyously acclaim your name.

<sup>14</sup>Justice and right judgment are the foundation of your throne;  
covenant love and faithfulness go before you.

**<sup>15</sup>Blessed and happy are your people in their rejoicing!  
You summon us into the light.**

**<sup>16</sup>Your name is our constant joy,  
your justice is the subject of our boast.**

**<sup>17</sup>For you are our glory and our strength.  
It is through your grace that we are exalted.**

**<sup>18</sup>For you, O GOD, are our shield.  
You, the Holy One of Israel, are our king.**

**<sup>19</sup>You spoke in a vision. Of your faithful one, you said:  
'I have set a royal crown on one who is mighty,  
I have exalted a soldier from the troop.**

**<sup>20</sup>I have found in David a servant,  
and anointed him with my holy oil.**

**<sup>21</sup>My hand will remain with him always  
and my arm will strengthen him.**

**<sup>22</sup>The enemy will not outwit him,  
the wicked will not humble him.**

**<sup>24</sup>My faithfulness and covenant love will escort him.  
In my name he will be victorious.**

**<sup>25</sup>I will extend his power from the Western Sea  
as far east as the mighty Euphrates.**

**<sup>26</sup>He will call to me: "You are my Father, my God, my rock of safety!"**

**<sup>27</sup>I will make him my firstborn, the highest of the kings."**

**<sup>28</sup>I will honour my pledge of love,  
and my covenant with him will stand firm.**

<sup>29</sup>I will establish his line forever,  
and his throne will endure like the heavens.

<sup>30</sup>If his children forsake my law  
and do not live according to my ordinances,  
<sup>31</sup>if they violate my statutes  
and do not keep my commandments,  
<sup>32</sup>then I will punish their transgression with the rod  
and their guilt with scourges.

<sup>33</sup>but I will not remove from him my covenant love,  
or be false to my faithfulness.

<sup>34</sup>I will not violate my covenant,  
or go back on the word I have spoken.

<sup>35</sup>Once and for all I have sworn by my holiness  
that I will not fall short of what I have promised to David.

<sup>36</sup>His line will continue forever,  
his throne will endure before me like the sun.

<sup>37</sup>It will be established forever like the moon,  
an enduring witness in the skies.'

<sup>47</sup>Remember me. How short is my life!  
Do you create people for no reason?

<sup>48</sup>Who can live and never die?  
Who can escape the power of death?

<sup>49</sup>God\*, where is the covenant love you showed of old,  
the faithfulness you swore to David?

<sup>50</sup>See how your servant is taunted;  
how I bear in my bosom the insults of the peoples.

<sup>51</sup>How your enemies taunt me, O GOD,  
mocking your anointed at every turn.

<sup>52</sup>Blessed be GOD for ever. Amen. Amen.

## Praying Psalm 90 with Jesus

<sup>1</sup>O God\*, you have been our refuge  
from one generation to the next.

<sup>2</sup>Before there were mountains,  
before you formed the earth and its continents,  
you are our God, without beginning or end.

<sup>3</sup>You return us back to dust, children of earth back to earth.  
<sup>4</sup>For you a thousand years are like yesterday come and gone,  
passing like a watch in the night.

<sup>5</sup>You sweep away the years.  
They pass like a dream upon awakening.  
<sup>6</sup>They are like grass that springs up in the morning,  
to wither and fade by the evening.

<sup>8</sup>You lay bare our guilt,  
our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

<sup>9</sup>Our years come to an end like a sigh.  
<sup>10</sup>Even if we live seventy years, or eighty if we are strong,  
life is toil and trouble;  
the years soon pass, and we are gone.

<sup>12</sup>Teach us to make use of our days  
that we may gain wisdom of heart.

<sup>13</sup>How long, O GOD, before you turn back to us?  
Have compassion on your servants!

**<sup>14</sup>Fill us in the morning with your covenant love,  
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.**

**<sup>15</sup>Give us joy to balance our affliction,  
for the years when we have suffered misfortune.**

**<sup>16</sup>Let your servants, young and old,  
witness the splendour of your action in our lives.**

**<sup>17</sup>Let the favour of our God, be upon us.  
Give success to the work of our hands.  
Give success to the work of our hands.**

## Praying Psalm 91 with Jesus

<sup>1</sup>You who live in the shelter of the Most High,  
who abide in the shade of the Almighty,

<sup>2</sup>say to GOD, 'My refuge, my fortress, my God in whom I trust.'

<sup>3</sup>Yes, God will deliver you from the snare of the hunter  
and from the deadly pestilence.

<sup>4</sup>God will cover you as a bird covers its young.

God's wings will shelter you.

God's faithfulness is your armour.

<sup>5</sup>You will not fear the terrors of the night,  
or the arrow that flies by day,

<sup>6</sup>or the pestilence that stalks in the dark,  
or the destruction that strikes at noon.

<sup>7</sup>A thousand may fall at your side,  
ten thousand at your right,  
but you, you will not be harmed.

<sup>8</sup>You have only to open your eyes  
to see how the wicked are punished.

<sup>9</sup>You have made GOD your refuge,  
the Most High your dwelling.

<sup>10</sup>No evil will befall you,  
no scourge come near your tent.

<sup>11</sup>For God will command the angels  
to guard you in all your ways.

**<sup>12</sup>They will bear you up on their hands  
lest you dash your foot against a stone.**

**<sup>13</sup>You will tread on the lion and the adder.  
You will trample on the young lion and the serpent.**

**<sup>14</sup>'I rescue those who cling to me in love.  
I protect those who know me.**

**<sup>15</sup>When I hear their cry, I answer, 'I am with you.'  
I am with them in trouble,  
I rescue them and bring them glory.**

**<sup>16</sup>With a long life I satisfy them,  
and show them my power to save.'**



## Praying Psalm 92 with Jesus

<sup>1</sup>How good it is to give you thanks, O GOD,  
to make music in your honour, O Most High,  
<sup>2</sup>to proclaim your covenant love in the morning,  
and in the night your faithfulness,  
<sup>3</sup>to the music of the lute and the harp,  
to the strumming of the lyre.

<sup>4</sup>Your deeds, O GOD, make me glad.  
I sing for joy at the works of your hands.  
<sup>5</sup>How great are your works!  
How deep your designs!

<sup>6</sup>The foolish cannot understand  
that though the wicked sprout like grass,  
<sup>7</sup>though evildoers flourish,  
they are doomed to final destruction.

<sup>8</sup>You, O GOD, are for ever on high.  
<sup>9</sup>Your enemies perish; all who do evil are scattered.

<sup>10</sup>To me you give the wild ox's strength.  
You anoint me with the purest oil.  
<sup>11</sup>I have seen the downfall of my enemies.  
I have heard the doom of my evil assailants.

<sup>12</sup>The righteous flourish like the palm tree,  
and grow like a Lebanon cedar.  
<sup>13</sup>They are planted in the house of GOD;  
they flourish in the courts of our God.

**<sup>14</sup>In old age the righteous still bear fruit;  
they are always green and full of sap,  
<sup>15</sup>proclaiming that GOD is upright;  
my rock, in whom there is no wrong.**

## Praying Psalm 93 with Jesus

<sup>1</sup>GOD is king, with majesty enrobed,  
robed with might, girded with power.

The world you established, not to be moved.

<sup>2</sup>Your throne, O GOD, has stood firm from of old.  
You are from all eternity.

<sup>3</sup>The torrents swell, the waters roar.  
Hear the crashing of their waves.

<sup>4</sup>More majestic than the roar of mighty waters,  
more glorious than the surging of the sea,  
GOD is glorious on high.

<sup>5</sup>Truly your decrees are to be trusted.

Holiness is fitting to your house, O GOD, until the end of time.

## Reflecting on Psalm 94 in Jesus' Company

God as revealed by Jesus is not an 'avenging God.'

<sup>1</sup>O GOD, reveal yourself, our avenging God!

<sup>2</sup>Rise up, O judge of the earth.

Give to the arrogant what they deserve!

<sup>3</sup>How long, O GOD, how long will the wicked strut around?

<sup>4</sup>They bluster and boast, flaunting their evil behaviour.

<sup>5</sup>They crush your people. They oppress your land.

<sup>6</sup>They kill the widow and the stranger. They murder the orphan.

<sup>7</sup>'GOD is blind,' they say. 'The God of Jacob sees nothing.'

<sup>8</sup>Pay attention you fools, you stupid people!

When will you understand?

<sup>9</sup>Does God who made the ear not hear?

Does God who made the eye not see?

<sup>10</sup>Does God who corrects the nations not punish?

Does God who teaches humankind lack knowledge?

<sup>11</sup>GOD knows our thoughts, how empty they are.

<sup>12</sup>Blessed and happy are those whom you discipline, O GOD,  
those to whom you give your law.

<sup>13</sup>They find comfort when times are bad,  
while a grave is being dug for the wicked.

<sup>14</sup>O GOD, you do not forsake your people.

You do not abandon your heritage.

<sup>15</sup>The innocent will win back their rights.

There will be a future for the righteous of heart.

<sup>16</sup>Who rises up for me against the wicked?

Who sides with me against those who do evil?

<sup>17</sup>Without your help, O GOD,

I would be lying silent in the grave.

<sup>18</sup>When I feel myself slipping,

your covenant love, O GOD, supports me.

<sup>19</sup>When the cares of my heart are many,

your consolations lift my spirit.

<sup>20</sup>Can they claim you for their side,

corrupt officials who do injustice under cover of law?

<sup>21</sup>They band together against the just,

condemning the innocent to death.

<sup>22</sup>You, O GOD, are my strength, my God, my rock of refuge.

<sup>23</sup>It is your will to wipe them out for the evil they do.

GOD, our God, will wipe them out.

## Praying Psalm 95 with Jesus

<sup>1</sup>Come, let us sing joyfully to GOD;

let us shout with joy to the Rock who saves us!

<sup>2</sup>Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving,  
singing joyfully to the sound of music!

<sup>3</sup>For GOD is the High God, Sovereign over all the gods.

<sup>4</sup>God's hand holds the depths of the earth,  
and the mountain peaks.

<sup>5</sup>The ocean belongs to the One who shaped it,  
and the dry land to the One who formed it.

<sup>6</sup>Come, let us worship and bow low,  
let us kneel before GOD, our Maker!

<sup>7</sup>This is our God, our Shepherd.  
We are the sheep fed by God's hand.

O that today you would listen to God's voice!

<sup>8</sup>Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the wilderness.

<sup>9</sup>There your ancestors tested me,  
though they had seen my deeds.

<sup>10</sup>For forty years I was sickened by that generation  
and I said, 'They are a people whose hearts are astray,  
they pay no regard to my ways.'

<sup>11</sup>I took an oath that they would never enter my rest.

## Praying Psalm 96 with Jesus

<sup>1</sup>Sing to GOD a new song! Sing to GOD, all the earth.

<sup>2</sup>Bless GOD's holy name!

Proclaim God's saving presence from day to day.

<sup>3</sup>Tell among the nations God's glory,

God's marvellous deeds all over the world.

<sup>4</sup>Great is GOD, and greatly to be praised;

to be revered above all the gods.

<sup>5</sup>Yes, the gods of the world are idols.

It was GOD who made the heavens.

<sup>6</sup>It is the same GOD of majestic light

who fills the temple with beauty.

<sup>7</sup>Acknowledge GOD, you nations,

acknowledge GOD's glory and might.

<sup>8</sup>Acknowledge the glory due to GOD!

Bring an offering. Enter the courts.

<sup>9</sup>Worship GOD in holy splendour.

Tremble before God, all the earth.

<sup>10</sup>Say among the nations, 'GOD is king!'

The world is firmly established.

God will judge the peoples with equity.

<sup>11</sup>Let the heavens rejoice and be glad,

let the sea and all within it roar.

<sup>12</sup>Let the field and all it bears rejoice.

Then will all the trees of the forest sing for joy

<sup>13</sup>before GOD, who is coming to judge the nations.

God rules the world with justice,

and judges the nations in accord with the truth.

## Praying Psalm 97 with Jesus

<sup>1</sup>GOD is king! Let the earth rejoice.

Let all the coastlands be glad.

<sup>2</sup>Cloud and darkness are God's raiment,

Justice and right are the foundations of God's kingdom.

<sup>3</sup>Fire consumes all resistance.

<sup>4</sup>God's lightning lights up the world.

The earth sees and trembles.

<sup>5</sup>Mountains melt like wax before GOD,

before the God\* of all the earth.

<sup>6</sup>The heavens proclaim the justice of God.

All the peoples behold God's glory.

<sup>7</sup>Worshippers of images are put to shame,

those who boast of their worthless idols.

You gods, bow down before GOD!

<sup>8</sup>Zion hears and is glad, the towns of Judah rejoice

because of your judgments, O God.

<sup>9</sup>For you indeed are GOD, Most High over all the earth;

exalted far above any god.

<sup>10</sup>GOD loves those who hate evil,

guards the lives of the faithful,

and rescues them from the power of the wicked.

<sup>11</sup>Light dawns for the righteous,

and joy for the upright of heart.

<sup>12</sup>Rejoice in GOD! Praise God's holy name.



## Praying Psalm 98 with Jesus

<sup>1</sup>Sing a new song to GOD.

Celebrate the wonderful deeds wrought by God's hand.

God's holy arm has achieved victory.

<sup>2</sup>You, O GOD, make known your saving action,  
revealing justice to the nations,

<sup>3</sup>remembering your covenant love and faithfulness  
to the house of Israel.

The ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

<sup>4</sup>Shout with joy to GOD, all the earth!

Break forth into joyous songs of praise!

<sup>5</sup>Sing praises to GOD with the lyre,  
with the sound of instruments.

<sup>6</sup>With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
shout with joy before GOD, our king.

<sup>7</sup>Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,  
the world and those who live in it.

<sup>8</sup>Rivers clap your hands! Hills ring out your joy!

<sup>9</sup>For GOD is coming, coming to judge the earth,  
to rule the world justly, to govern the peoples with equity.

## Praying Psalm 99 with Jesus

<sup>1</sup>GOD is king; let the nations tremble!

GOD sits enthroned upon the cherubim. Let the earth quake!

<sup>2</sup>YOU are great in Zion, exalted over all the peoples.

<sup>3</sup>Let them praise your great and awesome name!

*'GOD is Holy!'*

<sup>4</sup>Mighty King, lover of right judgment,

you have established equity.

You have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

<sup>5</sup>Praise GOD, our God.

Bow down before Zion, God's footstool.

*'GOD is Holy!'*

<sup>6</sup>Moses and Aaron were GOD's priests.

Samuel was among those who called on GOD's name.

They cried to GOD, and were answered.

<sup>7</sup>GOD spoke in the pillar of cloud.

They kept the decrees and statutes,

given them by GOD.

<sup>8</sup>O GOD, you answered them.

For them you were a God who forgives;

Yet you punished all their offences.

<sup>9</sup>Praise GOD and worship at his holy mountain.

For *GOD, our God, is holy.*

## Praying Psalm 100 with Jesus

<sup>1</sup>Cry out with joy to GOD all the earth.

<sup>2</sup>Serve GOD with gladness.

Come into the Presence singing for joy.

<sup>3</sup>Know that GOD is God,

our maker, to whom we belong.

We are the flock. GOD is our shepherd.

<sup>4</sup>Enter the temple gates with thanksgiving,

Enter the courts with songs of praise.

Give thanks and bless God's name.

<sup>5</sup>Indeed how good is GOD,

whose covenant love is eternal,

who is faithful from age to age.