

## VIGILS (even Sundays)

Lord, open my lips.

— And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen. Alleluia.

### INVITATORY: Psalm 95

Come, let us sing to the LORD  
and shout with joy to the Rock who saves us.  
Let us approach him  
with praise and thanksgiving  
and sing joyful songs to the LORD.  
The LORD is God, the mighty God,  
the great king over all the gods.  
He holds in his hands the depths of the earth  
and the highest mountains as well.  
He made the sea; it belongs to him,  
the dry land, too, for it was formed by his hands.  
Come, then, let us bow down and worship,  
bending the knee before the LORD, our maker.  
For he is our God and we are his people,  
the flock he shepherds.  
Today, listen to the voice of the LORD:  
Do not grow stubborn,  
as your fathers did in the wilderness,  
when at Meriba and Massah  
they challenged me and provoked me,  
although they had seen all of my works.  
Forty years I endured that generation.  
I said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray  
and they do not know my ways."  
So I swore in my anger,  
"They shall not enter into my rest."

Praise the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit,  
both now and forever.  
The God who is, who was, and is to come,  
at the end of the ages.

## FIRST NOCTURN

### Psalm 29

Give to the LORD, you heavenly beings,  
give to the LORD glory and might;  
Give to the LORD the glory due God's name.  
Bow down before the LORD's holy splendor!  
The voice of the LORD is over the waters;  
the God of glory thunders,  
the LORD, over the mighty waters.  
The voice of the LORD is power;  
the voice of the LORD is splendor.  
The voice of the LORD cracks the cedars;  
the LORD splinters the cedars of Lebanon,  
Makes Lebanon leap like a calf,  
and Sirion like a young bull.  
The voice of the LORD strikes with fiery flame;  
the voice of the LORD rocks the desert;  
the LORD rocks the desert of Kadesh.  
The voice of the LORD twists the oaks  
and strips the forests bare.  
All in his palace say, "Glory!"  
The LORD sits enthroned above the flood!  
The LORD reigns as king forever!  
May the LORD give might to his people;  
may the LORD bless his people with peace!  
Praise the Father . . .

### Psalm 30

I praise you, LORD, for you raised me up  
and did not let my enemies rejoice over me.  
O LORD, my God, I cried out to you  
and you healed me.  
LORD, you brought me up from Sheol;  
you kept me from going down to the pit.  
Sing praise to the LORD, you faithful;  
give thanks to God's holy name.  
For divine anger lasts but a moment;  
divine favor lasts a lifetime.  
At dusk weeping comes for the night;  
but at dawn there is rejoicing.  
Complacent, I once said,  
"I shall never be shaken."  
LORD, when you showed me favor  
I stood like the mighty mountains.  
But when you hid your face  
I was struck with terror.

To you, LORD, I cried out;  
with the LORD I pleaded for mercy:  
“What gain is there from my lifeblood,  
from my going down to the grave?  
Does dust give you thanks  
or declare your faithfulness?  
Hear, O LORD, have mercy on me;  
LORD, be my helper.”  
You changed my mourning into dancing;  
you took off my sackcloth  
and clothed me with gladness.  
With my whole being I sing  
endless praise to you.  
O LORD, my God, forever will I give you thanks.  
Praise the Father . . .

### **Psalm 31**

In you, LORD, I take refuge;  
let me never be put to shame.  
In your justice deliver me;  
incline your ear to me;  
make haste to rescue me!  
Be my rock of refuge,  
a stronghold to save me.  
You are my rock and my fortress;  
for your name’s sake lead and guide me.  
Free me from the net they have set for me,  
for you are my refuge.  
Into your hands I commend my spirit;  
you will redeem me, LORD, faithful God.  
You hate those who serve worthless idols,  
but I trust in the LORD.  
I will rejoice and be glad in your love,  
once you have seen my misery,  
observed my distress.  
You will not abandon me into enemy hands,  
but will set my feet in a free and open space.  
Be gracious to me, LORD, for I am in distress;  
with grief my eyes are wasted,  
my soul and body spent.  
My life is worn out by sorrow,  
my years by sighing.  
My strength fails in affliction;  
my bones are consumed.

To all my foes I am a thing of scorn,  
to my neighbors, a dreaded sight,  
a horror to my friends.  
When they see me in the street,  
they quickly shy away.  
I am forgotten, out of mind like the dead;  
I am like a shattered dish.  
I hear the whispers of the crowd;  
terrors are all around me.  
They conspire against me;  
they plot to take my life.  
But I trust in you, LORD;  
I say, “You are my God.”  
My times are in your hands;  
rescue me from my enemies,  
from the hands of my pursuers.  
Let your face shine on your servant;  
save me in your kindness.  
Do not let me be put to shame,  
for I have called to you, LORD.  
Put the wicked to shame;  
reduce them to silence in Sheol.  
Strike dumb their lying lips,  
proud lips that attack the just  
in contempt and scorn.  
How great is your goodness, LORD,  
stored up for those who fear you.  
You display it for those who trust you,  
in the sight of all the people.  
You hide them in the shelter of your presence,  
safe from scheming enemies.  
You keep them in your abode,  
safe from plotting tongues.  
Blessed be the LORD,  
who has shown me wondrous love,  
and been for me a city most secure.  
Once I said in my anguish,  
“I am shut out from your sight.”  
Yet you heard my plea, when I cried out to you.  
Love the LORD, all you faithful.  
The LORD protects the loyal,  
but repays the arrogant in full.  
Be strong and take heart,  
all you who hope in the LORD.  
Praise the Father . . .

# VIGILS (even Sundays)

## SECOND NOCTURN

### Psalm 34

I will bless the LORD at all times;  
praise shall be always in my mouth.  
My soul will glory in the LORD  
that the poor may hear and be glad.  
Magnify the LORD with me;  
let us exalt his name together.  
I sought the LORD, who answered me,  
delivered me from all my fears.  
Look to God that you may be radiant with joy  
and your faces may not blush for shame.  
In my misfortune I called,  
the LORD heard and saved me from all distress.  
The angel of the LORD, who encamps with them,  
delivers all who fear God.  
Learn to savor how good the LORD is;  
happy are those who take refuge in him.  
Fear the LORD, you holy ones;  
nothing is lacking to those who fear him.  
The powerful grow poor and hungry,  
but those who seek the LORD  
lack no good thing.  
Come, children, listen to me;  
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.  
Who among you loves life,  
takes delight in prosperous days?  
Keep your tongue from evil,  
your lips from speaking lies.  
Turn from evil and do good;  
seek peace and pursue it.  
The LORD has eyes for the just  
and ears for their cry.  
The LORD's face is against evildoers  
to wipe out their memory from the earth.  
When the just cry out, the LORD hears  
and rescues them from all distress.  
The LORD is close to the brokenhearted,  
saves those whose spirit is crushed.  
Many are the troubles of the just,  
but the LORD delivers from them all.  
God watches over all their bones;  
not a one shall be broken.  
Evil will slay the wicked;  
those who hate the just are condemned.  
The LORD redeems loyal servants;

no one is condemned whose refuge is God.  
Praise the Father . . .

### Psalm 66

Shout joyfully to God, all you on earth;  
sing of his glorious name;  
give him glorious praise.  
Say to God: "How awesome your deeds!  
Before your great strength your enemies cringe.  
All on earth fall in worship before you;  
they sing of you, sing of your name!"  
Come and see the works of God,  
awesome in the deeds done for us.  
He changed the sea to dry land;  
through the river they passed on foot.  
Therefore let us rejoice in him,  
who rules by might forever,  
Whose eyes are fixed upon the nations.  
Let no rebel rise to challenge!  
Bless our God, you peoples;  
loudly sound his praise,  
Who has kept us alive  
and not allowed our feet to slip.  
You tested us, O God,  
tried us as silver tried by fire.  
You led us into a snare;  
you bound us at the waist as captives.  
You let captors set foot on our neck;  
we went through fire and water;  
then you led us out to freedom.  
I will bring holocausts to your house;  
to you I will fulfill my vows,  
The vows my lips pronounced  
and my mouth spoke in distress.  
Holocausts of fatlings I will offer you  
and burnt offerings of rams;  
I will sacrifice oxen and goats.  
Come and hear, all you who fear God,  
while I recount what has been done for me.  
I called to the Lord with my mouth;  
praise was upon my tongue.  
Had I cherished evil in my heart,  
the LORD would not have heard.  
But God did hear  
and listened to my voice in prayer.  
Blessed be God, who did not refuse me  
the kindness I sought in prayer.  
Praise the Father . . .

## VIGILS (even Mondays)

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— And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen. Alleluia.

### INVITATORY: Psalm 67

O God, be gracious and bless us  
and let your face shed its light upon us.  
So will your ways be known upon earth  
and all nations learn your saving help.  
Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.  
Let the nations be glad and exult  
for you rule the world with justice.  
With fairness you rule the peoples,  
you guide the nations on earth.  
Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.  
The earth has yielded its fruit  
for God, our God, has blessed us.  
May God still give us his blessing  
till the ends of the earth revere him.

Praise the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit,  
both now and forever.  
The God who is, who was, and is to come,  
at the end of the ages.

### FIRST NOCTURN

#### Psalm 37

Do not be provoked by evildoers;  
do not envy those who do wrong.  
Like grass they wither quickly;  
like green plants they wilt away.  
Trust in the LORD and do good  
that you may dwell in the land and live secure.  
Find your delight in the LORD  
who will give you your heart's desire.  
Commit your way to the LORD;  
trust that God will act  
And make your integrity shine like the dawn,  
your vindication like noonday.

Be still before the LORD;  
wait for God.

Do not be provoked by the prosperous,  
nor by malicious schemers.  
Give up your anger, abandon your wrath;  
do not be provoked; it brings only harm.  
Those who do evil will be cut off,  
but those who wait for the LORD  
will possess the land.  
Wait a little, and the wicked will be no more;  
look for them and they will not be there.  
But the poor will possess the land,  
will delight in great prosperity.  
The wicked plot against the just  
and grind their teeth at them;  
But the LORD laughs at them,  
knowing their day is coming.  
The wicked draw their swords;  
they string their bows  
To fell the poor and oppressed,  
to slaughter those whose way is honest.  
Their swords will pierce their own hearts;  
their bows will be broken.  
Better the poverty of the just  
than the great wealth of the wicked.  
The arms of the wicked will be broken;  
the LORD will sustain the just.  
The LORD watches over the days  
of the blameless;  
their heritage lasts forever.  
They will not be disgraced when times are hard;  
in days of famine they will have plenty.  
The wicked perish,  
the enemies of the LORD;  
Like the beauty of meadows they vanish;  
like smoke they disappear.  
The wicked borrow but do not repay;  
the just are generous in giving.  
For those blessed by the Lord  
will possess the land,  
but those accursed will be cut off.  
Those whose steps are guided by the LORD;  
whose way God approves,  
May stumble, but they will never fall,  
for the LORD holds their hand.  
Neither in my youth, nor now in old age  
have I ever seen the just abandoned  
or their children begging bread.

The just always lend generously,  
and their children become a blessing.  
Turn from evil and do good,  
that you may inhabit the land forever.  
For the LORD loves justice  
and does not abandon the faithful.  
When the unjust are destroyed,  
and the children of the wicked cut off,  
The just will possess the land  
and live in it forever.  
The mouths of the just utter wisdom;  
their tongues speak what is right.  
God's teaching is in their hearts;  
their steps do not falter.  
The wicked spy on the just  
and seek to kill them.  
But the LORD does not leave  
the just in their power,  
nor let them be condemned when tried.  
Wait eagerly for the LORD,  
and keep to the way;  
God will raise you to possess the land;  
you will gloat when the wicked are cut off.  
I have seen ruthless scoundrels,  
strong as flourishing cedars.  
When I passed by again, they were gone;  
though I searched, they could not be found.  
Observe the honest, mark the upright;  
those at peace with God have a future.  
But all sinners will be destroyed;  
the future of the wicked will be cut off.

The salvation of the just is from the LORD,  
their refuge in time of distress.  
The LORD helps and rescues them,  
rescues and saves them from the wicked,  
because in God they take refuge.  
Praise the Father . . .

### **Psalm 52**

Why do you glory in evil,  
you scandalous liar?  
All day long you plot destruction;  
your tongue is like a sharpened razor,  
you skillful deceiver.  
You love evil rather than good,  
lies rather than honest speech.  
You love any word that destroys,  
you deceitful tongue.  
Now God will strike you down,  
leave you crushed forever,  
Pluck you from your tent,  
uproot you from the land of the living.  
The righteous will look on with awe;  
they will jeer and say:  
"That one did not take God as a refuge,  
but trusted in great wealth,  
relied on devious plots."  
But I, like an olive tree in the house of God,  
trust in God's faithful love forever.  
I will praise you always for what you have done.  
I will proclaim before the faithful  
that your name is good.  
Praise the Father . . .

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## **VIGILS (even Mondays)**

### **SECOND NOCTURN**

#### **Psalm 11**

In the LORD I take refuge;  
how can you say to me,  
"Flee like a bird to the mountains!  
See how the wicked string their bows,  
fit their arrows to the string to shoot  
from the shadows at the upright.  
When foundations are being destroyed,  
what can the upright do?"

The LORD is in his holy temple;  
the LORD's throne is in heaven.  
God's eyes keep careful watch;  
they test all peoples.  
The LORD tests the good and the bad,  
hates those who love violence,  
And rains upon the wicked  
fiery coals and brimstone,  
a scorching wind their allotted cup.  
The LORD is just and loves just deeds;  
the upright shall see his face.  
Praise the Father . . .

## Psalm 105

Give thanks to the LORD, invoke his name;  
make known among the peoples his deeds!  
Sing praise, play music;  
proclaim all his wondrous deeds!  
Glory in his holy name; rejoice,  
O hearts that seek the LORD!  
Rely on the mighty LORD;  
constantly seek his face.  
Recall the wondrous deeds he has done,  
his signs and his words of judgment,  
You descendants of Abraham his servant,  
offspring of Jacob the chosen one!  
The LORD is our God  
who rules the whole earth.  
He remembers forever his covenant,  
the pact imposed for a thousand generations,  
Which was made with Abraham,  
confirmed by oath to Isaac,  
And ratified as binding for Jacob,  
an everlasting covenant for Israel:  
“To you I give the land of Canaan,  
your own allotted heritage.”  
When they were few in number,  
a handful, and strangers there,  
Wandering from nation to nation,  
from one kingdom to another,  
He let no one oppress them;  
for their sake he rebuked kings:  
“Do not touch my anointed,  
to my prophets do no harm.”  
Then he called down a famine on the land,  
destroyed the grain that sustained them.  
He had sent a man ahead of them,  
Joseph, sold as a slave.  
They shackled his feet with chains;  
collared his neck in iron,  
Till his prediction came to pass,  
and the word of the LORD proved him true.  
The king sent and released him;  
the ruler of peoples set him free.  
He made him lord over his palace,  
ruler over all his possessions,  
To instruct his princes by his word,  
to teach his elders wisdom.  
Then Israel entered Egypt;  
Jacob lived in the land of Ham.

God greatly increased his people,  
made them too many for their foes.  
He turned their hearts to hate his people,  
to treat his servants unfairly.  
He sent his servant Moses,  
Aaron whom he had chosen.  
They worked his signs in Egypt  
and wonders in the land of Ham.  
He sent darkness and it grew dark,  
but they rebelled against his word.  
He turned their waters into blood  
and killed all their fish.  
Their land swarmed with frogs,  
even the chambers of their kings.  
He spoke and there came swarms of flies,  
gnats through all their country.  
For rain he gave them hail,  
flashes of lightning throughout their land.  
He struck down their vines and fig trees,  
shattered the trees of their country.  
He spoke and the locusts came,  
grass hoppers without number.  
They devoured every plant in the land;  
they ravaged the crops of their fields.  
He struck down every firstborn in the land,  
the first fruits of all their vigor.  
He brought his people out,  
laden with silver and gold;  
no stragglers among the tribes.  
Egypt rejoiced when they left,  
for panic had seized them.  
He spread a cloud as a cover,  
and made a fire to light up the night.  
They asked and he brought them quail;  
with bread from heaven he filled them.  
He split the rock and water gushed forth;  
it flowed through the desert like a river.  
For he remembered his sacred word  
to Abraham his servant.  
He brought his people out with joy,  
his chosen ones with shouts of triumph.  
He gave them the lands of the nations,  
the wealth of the peoples to own,  
That they might keep his laws  
and observe his teachings. Hallelujah!  
Praise the Father . . .

## VIGILS (even Tuesdays)

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— And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen. Alleluia.

### **INVITATORY: Psalm 95**

Come, let us sing to the LORD  
and shout with joy to the Rock who saves us.  
Let us approach him  
with praise and thanksgiving  
and sing joyful songs to the LORD.  
The LORD is God, the mighty God,  
the great king over all the gods.  
He holds in his hands the depths of the earth  
and the highest mountains as well.  
He made the sea; it belongs to him,  
the dry land, too, for it was formed by his hands.  
Come, then, let us bow down and worship,  
bending the knee before the LORD, our maker.  
For he is our God and we are his people,  
the flock he shepherds.  
Today, listen to the voice of the LORD:  
Do not grow stubborn,  
as your fathers did in the wilderness,  
when at Meriba and Massah  
they challenged me and provoked me,  
although they had seen all of my works.  
Forty years I endured that generation.  
I said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray  
and they do not know my ways."  
So I swore in my anger,  
"They shall not enter into my rest."

Praise the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit,  
both now and forever.  
The God who is, who was, and is to come,  
at the end of the ages.

## FIRST NOCTURN

### **Psalm 56**

Have mercy on me, God,  
for I am treated harshly;  
attackers press me all the day.  
My foes treat me harshly all the day;  
yes, many are my attackers.  
O Most High, when I am afraid,  
in you I place my trust.  
God, I praise your promise;  
in you I trust, I do not fear.  
What can mere flesh do to me?  
All the day they foil my plans;  
their every thought is of evil against me.  
They hide together in ambush;  
they watch my every step;  
they lie in wait for my life.  
They are evil; watch them, God!  
Cast the nations down in your anger!  
My wanderings you have noted;  
are my tears not stored in your vial,  
recorded in your book?  
My foes turn back when I call on you.  
This I know: God is on my side.  
God, I praise your promise;  
in you I trust, I do not fear.  
What can mere mortals do to me?  
I have made vows to you, God;  
with offerings I will fulfill them,  
Once you have snatched me from death,  
kept my feet from stumbling,  
That I may walk before God  
in the light of the living.  
Praise the Father . . .

### **Psalm 70**

Graciously rescue me, God!  
Come quickly to help me, LORD!  
Confound and put to shame  
those who seek my life.  
Turn back in disgrace  
those who desire my ruin.  
Let those who say "Aha!"  
turn back in their shame.  
But may all who seek you rejoice  
and be glad in you.

May those who long for your help  
always say, "God be glorified!"  
Here I am, afflicted and poor.  
God, come quickly!  
You are my help and deliverer.  
LORD, do not delay!  
Praise the Father . . .

### **Psalm 71**

In you, LORD, I take refuge;  
let me never be put to shame.  
In your justice rescue and deliver me;  
listen to me and save me!  
Be my rock and refuge, my secure stronghold;  
for you are my rock and fortress.  
My God, rescue me  
from the power of the wicked,  
from the clutches of the violent.  
You are my hope, LORD;  
my trust, God, from my youth.  
On you I depend since birth;  
from my mother's womb you are my strength;  
my hope in you never wavers.  
I have become a portent to many,  
but you are my strong refuge!  
My mouth shall be filled with your praise,  
shall sing your glory every day.  
Do not cast me aside in my old age;  
as my strength fails, do not forsake me.  
For my enemies speak against me;  
they watch and plot against me.  
They say, "God has abandoned that one.  
Pursue, seize the wretch!  
No one will come to the rescue!"  
God, do not stand far from me;  
my God, hasten to help me.

Bring to a shameful end  
those who attack me;  
Cover with contempt and scorn  
those who seek my ruin.  
I will always hope in you  
and add to all your praise.  
My mouth shall proclaim your just deeds,  
day after day your acts of deliverance,  
though I cannot number them all.  
I will speak of the mighty works of the LORD;  
O God, I will tell of your singular justice.  
God, you have taught me from my youth;  
to this day I proclaim your wondrous deeds.  
Now that I am old and gray,  
do not forsake me, God,  
That I may proclaim your might  
to all generations yet to come,  
Your power and justice, God,  
to the highest heaven.  
You have done great things;  
O God, who is your equal?  
You have sent me many bitter afflictions,  
but once more revive me.  
From the watery depths of the earth  
once more raise me up.  
Restore my honor;  
turn and comfort me,  
That I may praise you with the lyre  
for your faithfulness, my God,  
And sing to you with the harp,  
O Holy One of Israel!  
My lips will shout for joy as I sing your praise;  
my soul, too, which you have redeemed.  
Yes, my tongue shall recount  
your justice day by day.  
For those who sought my ruin  
will have been shamed and disgraced.  
Praise the Father . . .

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## **VIGILS (even Tuesdays)**

### **SECOND NOCTURN**

#### **Psalm 75**

We thank you, God, we give thanks;  
we call upon your name,  
declare your wonderful deeds.

You said: "I will choose the time;  
I will judge fairly.  
The earth and all its inhabitants will quake,  
but I have firmly set its pillars."  
So I say to the boastful: "Do not boast!"  
to the wicked: "Do not raise your horns!  
Do not raise your horns against heaven!  
Do not speak arrogantly against the Rock!"



For judgment comes not from east or from west,  
not from the desert or from the mountains,  
But from God who decides,  
who brings some low and raises others high.  
Yes, a cup is in the LORD's hand,  
foaming wine, fully spiced.  
When God pours it out,  
they will drain it even to the dregs;  
all the wicked of the earth must drink.  
But I will rejoice forever;  
I will sing praise to the God of Jacob,  
Who has said: "I will break off  
all the horns of the wicked,  
but the horns of the just shall be lifted up."  
Praise the Father . . .

### **Psalm 82**

God rises in the divine council,  
gives judgment in the midst of the gods.  
"How long will you judge unjustly  
and favor the cause of the wicked?  
Defend the lowly and fatherless;  
render justice to the afflicted and needy.  
Rescue the lowly and poor;  
deliver them from the hand of the wicked."  
The gods neither know nor understand,  
wandering about in darkness,  
and all the world's foundations shake.  
I declare: "Gods though you be,  
offspring of the Most High all of you,  
Yet like any mortal you shall die;  
like any prince you shall fall."  
Arise, O God, judge the earth,  
for yours are all the nations.  
Praise the Father . . .

### **Psalm 94**

LORD, avenging God,  
avenging God, shine forth!  
Rise up, judge of the earth;  
give the proud what they deserve.  
How long, LORD, shall the wicked,  
how long shall the wicked glory?  
How long will they mouth haughty speeches,

go on boasting, all these evildoers?  
They crush your people, LORD,  
torment your very own.  
They kill the widow and alien;  
the fatherless they murder.  
They say, "The LORD does not see;  
the God of Jacob takes no notice."  
Understand, you stupid people!  
You fools, when will you be wise?  
Does the one who shaped the ear not hear?  
The one who formed the eye not see?  
Does the one who guides nations not rebuke?  
The one who teaches humans  
not have knowledge?  
The LORD does know human plans;  
they are only puffs of air.  
Happy those whom you guide, LORD,  
whom you teach by your instruction.  
You give them rest from evil days,  
while a pit is being dug for the wicked.  
You, LORD, will not forsake your people,  
nor abandon your very own.  
Judgment shall again be just,  
and all the upright of heart will follow it.  
Who will rise up for me against the wicked?  
Who will stand up for me against evildoers?  
If the LORD were not my help,  
I would long have been silent in the grave.  
When I say, "My foot is slipping,"  
your love, LORD, holds me up.  
When cares increase within me,  
your comfort gives me joy.  
Can unjust judges be your allies,  
those who create burdens in the name of law,  
Those who conspire against the just  
and condemn the innocent to death?  
No, the LORD is my secure height,  
my God, the rock where I find refuge,  
Who will turn back their evil upon them  
and destroy them for their wickedness.  
Surely the LORD our God will destroy them!  
Praise the Father . . .

## VIGILS (even Wednesdays)

Lord, open my lips.

— And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen. Alleluia.

### INVITATORY: Psalm 100

Cry out with joy to the LORD, all the earth.  
Serve the LORD with gladness.  
Come before him, singing for joy.  
Know that he, the LORD, is God.  
He made us, we belong to him,  
we are his people, the sheep of his flock.  
Go within his gates, giving thanks.  
Enter his courts with songs of praise.  
Give thanks to him and bless his name.  
Indeed, how good is the LORD,  
eternal his merciful love.  
He is faithful from age to age.

Praise the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit,  
both now and forever.  
The God who is, who was, and is to come,  
at the end of the ages.

### FIRST NOCTURN

#### Psalm 107

“Give thanks to the LORD who is good,  
whose love endures forever!”  
Let that be the prayer of the LORD’s redeemed,  
those redeemed from the hand of the foe,  
Those gathered from foreign lands,  
from east and west, from north and south.  
Some had lost their way in a barren desert;  
found no path toward a city to live in.  
They were hungry and thirsty;  
their life was ebbing away.  
In their distress they cried to the LORD,  
who rescued them in their peril,  
Guided them by a direct path  
so they reached a city to live in.  
Let them thank the LORD for such kindness,

such wondrous deeds for mere mortals.  
For he satisfied the thirsty,  
filled the hungry with good things.  
Some lived in darkness and gloom,  
in prison, bound with chains,  
Because they rebelled against God’s word,  
scorned the counsel of the Most High,  
Who humbled their hearts through hardship;  
they stumbled with no one to help.  
In their distress they cried to the LORD,  
who saved them in their peril,  
Led them forth from darkness and gloom  
and broke their chains asunder.  
Let them thank the LORD for such kindness,  
such wondrous deeds for mere mortals.  
For he broke down the gates of bronze  
and snapped the bars of iron.  
Some fell sick from their wicked ways,  
afflicted because of their sins.  
They loathed all manner of food;  
they were at the gates of death.  
In their distress they cried to the LORD,  
who saved them in their peril,  
Sent forth the word to heal them,  
snatched them from the grave.  
Let them thank the LORD for such kindness,  
such wondrous deeds for mere mortals.  
Let them offer a sacrifice in thanks,  
declare his works with shouts of joy.  
Some went off to sea in ships,  
plied their trade on the deep waters.  
They saw the works of the LORD,  
the wonders of God in the deep.  
He spoke and roused a storm wind;  
it tossed the waves on high.  
They rose up to the heavens, sank to the depths;  
their hearts trembled at the danger.  
They reeled, staggered like drunkards;  
their skill was of no avail.  
In their distress they cried to the LORD,  
who brought them out of their peril,  
Hushed the storm to a murmur;  
the waves of the sea were stilled.  
They rejoiced that the sea grew calm,  
that God brought them  
to the harbor they longed for.  
Let them thank the LORD for such kindness,  
such wondrous deeds for mere mortals.

Let them praise him  
in the assembly of the people,  
give thanks in the council of the elders.  
God changed rivers into desert,  
springs of water into thirsty ground,  
Fruitful land into a salty waste,  
because of the wickedness of its people.  
He changed the desert into pools of water,  
arid land into springs of water,  
And settled the hungry there;  
they built a city to live in.  
They sowed fields and planted vineyards,  
brought in an abundant harvest.  
God blessed them, they became very many,  
and their livestock did not decrease.  
But he poured out contempt on princes,  
made them wander the trackless wastes,  
Where they were diminished and brought low  
through misery and cruel oppression,  
While the poor were released  
from their affliction;  
their families increased like their flocks.  
The upright saw this and rejoiced;  
all wickedness shut its mouth.

Whoever is wise will take note of these things,  
will ponder the merciful deeds of the LORD.  
Praise the Father . . .

### **Psalm 61**

Hear my cry, O God,  
listen to my prayer!  
From the brink of Sheol I call;  
my heart grows faint.  
Raise me up, set me on a rock,  
for you are my refuge,  
a tower of strength against the foe.  
Then I will ever dwell in your tent,  
take refuge in the shelter of your wings.  
O God, when you accept my vows  
and hear the plea of those  
who revere your name in prayer:  
“Add to the days of the king’s life;  
may his years be many generations;  
May he reign before God forever;  
may your love and fidelity preserve him” —  
Then I will sing your name forever,  
fulfill my vows day after day.  
Praise the Father . . .

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## **VIGILS (even Wednesdays)**

### **SECOND NOCTURN**

#### **Psalm 74**

Why, God, have you cast us off forever?  
Why does your anger burn against  
the sheep of your pasture?  
Remember your flock that you gathered of old,  
the tribe you redeemed as your very own.  
Remember Mount Zion where you dwell.  
Turn your steps toward the utter ruins, toward  
the sanctuary devastated by the enemy.  
Your foes roared triumphantly in your shrine;  
they set up their own tokens of victory.  
They hacked away like foresters  
gathering boughs,  
swinging their axes in a thicket of trees.  
They smashed all your engraved work,  
pounded it with hammer and pick.

They set your sanctuary on fire;  
the abode of your name  
they razed and profaned.  
They said in their hearts, “Destroy them all!  
Burn all the shrines of God in the land!”  
Now we see no signs, we have no prophets,  
no one who knows how long.  
How long, O God, shall the enemy jeer?  
Shall the foe revile your name forever?  
Why draw back your right hand,  
why keep it idle beneath your cloak?  
Yet you, God, are my king from of old,  
winning victories throughout the earth.  
You stirred up the sea in your might;  
you smashed the heads  
of the dragons on the waters.  
You crushed the heads of Leviathan,  
tossed him for food to the sharks.  
You opened up springs and torrents,  
brought dry land out of the primeval waters.

Yours the day and yours the night;  
you set the moon and sun in place.  
You fixed all the limits of the earth;  
summer and winter you made.  
Remember how the enemy has jeered, O LORD,  
how a foolish people has reviled your name.  
Do not surrender to beasts those who praise you;  
do not forget forever the life of your afflicted.  
Look to your covenant,  
for the land is filled with gloom;  
the pastures, with violence.  
Let not the oppressed turn back in shame;  
may the poor and needy praise your name.  
Arise, God, defend your cause;  
remember the constant jeers of the fools.  
Do not ignore the clamor of your foes,  
the unceasing uproar of your enemies.  
Praise the Father . . .

### **Psalm 81**

Sing joyfully to God our strength;  
shout in triumph to the God of Jacob!  
Take up a melody, sound the timbrel,  
the sweet-sounding harp and lyre.  
Blow the trumpet at the new moon,  
at the full moon, on our solemn feast.  
For this is a law in Israel,  
an edict of the God of Jacob,

Who made it a decree for Joseph  
when he came out of the land of Egypt.  
I hear a new oracle:  
“I relieved their shoulders of the burden;  
their hands put down the basket.  
In distress you called and I rescued you;  
unseen, I spoke to you in thunder;  
At the waters of Meribah  
I tested you and said:  
‘Listen, my people, I give you warning!  
If only you will obey me, Israel!  
There must be no foreign god among you;  
you must not worship an alien god.  
I, the LORD, am your God,  
who brought you up from the land of Egypt.  
Open wide your mouth  
that I may fill it.’  
But my people did not listen to my words;  
Israel did not obey me.  
So I gave them over to hardness of heart;  
they followed their own designs.  
But even now if my people would listen,  
if Israel would walk in my paths,  
In a moment I would subdue their foes,  
against their enemies unleash my hand.  
Those who hate the LORD would tremble,  
their doom sealed forever.  
But Israel I would feed with the finest wheat,  
satisfy them with honey from the rock.”  
Praise the Father . . .

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## **VIGILS (even Thursdays)**

Lord, open my lips.  
— And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen. Alleluia.

### **INVITATORY: Psalm 95**

Come, let us sing to the LORD  
and shout with joy to the Rock who saves us.

Let us approach him  
with praise and thanksgiving  
and sing joyful songs to the LORD.  
The LORD is God, the mighty God,  
the great king over all the gods.  
He holds in his hands the depths of the earth  
and the highest mountains as well.  
He made the sea; it belongs to him,  
the dry land, too, for it was formed by his hands.  
Come, then, let us bow down and worship,  
bending the knee before the LORD, our maker.  
For he is our God and we are his people,  
the flock he shepherds.  
Today, listen to the voice of the LORD:

Do not grow stubborn,  
as your fathers did in the wilderness,  
when at Meriba and Massah  
they challenged me and provoked me,  
although they had seen all of my works.  
Forty years I endured that generation.  
I said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray  
and they do not know my ways."  
So I swore in my anger,  
"They shall not enter into my rest."

Praise the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit,  
both now and forever.  
The God who is, who was, and is to come,  
at the end of the ages.

### **FIRST NOCTURN**

#### **Psalm 26**

Grant me justice, LORD!  
I have walked without blame.  
In the LORD I have trusted;  
I have not faltered.  
Test me, LORD, and try me;  
search my heart and mind.  
Your love is before my eyes;  
I walk guided by your faithfulness.  
I do not sit with deceivers,  
nor with hypocrites do I mingle.  
I hate the company of evildoers;  
with the wicked I do not sit.  
I will wash my hands in innocence  
and walk round your altar, LORD,  
Lifting my voice in thanks,  
recounting all your wondrous deeds.  
LORD, I love the house where you dwell,  
the tenting-place of your glory.  
Do not take me away with sinners,  
nor my life with the violent.  
Their hands carry out their schemes;  
their right hands are full of bribes.  
But I walk without blame;  
redeem me, be gracious to me!  
Praise the Father . . .

#### **Psalm 49**

Hear this, all you peoples!  
Give ear, all who inhabit the world,  
You of lowly birth or high estate,  
rich and poor alike.  
My mouth shall speak wisdom,  
my heart shall offer insight.  
I will turn my attention to a problem,  
expound my question to the music of a lyre.  
Why should I fear in evil days,  
when my wicked pursuers ring me round,  
Those who trust in their wealth  
and boast of their abundant riches?  
One cannot redeem oneself,  
pay to God a ransom.  
Too high the price to redeem a life;  
one would never have enough  
To stay alive forever  
and never see the pit.  
Anyone can see that the wisest die,  
the fool and the senseless pass away too,  
and must leave their wealth to others.  
Tombs are their homes forever,  
their dwellings through all generations,  
though they gave their names to their lands.  
For all their riches mortals do not abide;  
they perish like the beasts.  
This is the destiny of those who trust in folly,  
the end of those so pleased with their wealth.  
Like sheep they are herded into Sheol,  
where death will be their shepherd.  
Straight to the grave they descend,  
where their form will waste away,  
Sheol will be their palace.  
But God will redeem my life,  
will take me from the power of Sheol.  
Do not fear when others become rich,  
when the wealth of their houses grows great.  
When they die they will take nothing with them,  
their wealth will not follow them down.  
When living, they congratulate themselves  
and say: "All praise you, you do so well."  
But they will join the company  
of their forebears, never again to see the light.  
For all their riches,  
if mortals do not have wisdom,  
they perish like the beasts.  
Praise the Father . . .

**Psalm 79**

O God, the nations have invaded your heritage;  
 they have defiled your holy temple,  
 have laid Jerusalem in ruins.  
 They have left the corpses of your servants  
 as food for the birds of the heavens,  
 the flesh of your faithful  
 for the beasts of the earth.  
 They have spilled their blood like water  
 all around Jerusalem,  
 and no one is left to bury them.  
 We have become the reproach of our neighbors,  
 the scorn and derision of those around us.  
 How long, LORD? Will you be angry forever?  
 Will your rage keep burning like fire?  
 Pour out your wrath on nations that reject you,  
 on kingdoms that do not call on your name,  
 For they have devoured Jacob,  
 laid waste his home.  
 Do not hold past iniquities against us;

may your compassion come quickly,  
 for we have been brought very low.  
 Help us, God our savior,  
 for the glory of your name.  
 Deliver us, pardon our sins  
 for your name's sake.  
 Why should the nations say,  
 "Where is their God?"  
 Before our eyes make clear to the nations  
 that you avenge the blood of your servants.  
 Let the groans of prisoners come before you;  
 by your great power free those doomed to death.  
 LORD, inflict on our neighbors seven fold  
 the disgrace they inflicted on you.  
 Then we, your people, the sheep of your pasture,  
 will give thanks to you forever;  
 through all ages  
 we will declare your praise.  
 Praise the Father . . .

**VIGILS (even Thursdays)****SECOND NOCTURN****Psalm 83**

God, do not be silent;  
 God, be not still and unmoved!  
 See how your enemies rage;  
 your foes proudly raise their heads.  
 They conspire against your people,  
 plot against those you protect.  
 They say, "Come, let us wipe out their nation;  
 let Israel's name be mentioned no more!"  
 They scheme with one mind,  
 in league against you:  
 The tents of Ishmael and Edom,  
 the people of Moab and Hagar,  
 Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek, Philistia  
 and the inhabitants of Tyre.  
 Assyria, too, in league with them  
 gives aid to the descendants of Lot.  
 Deal with them as with Midian;  
 as with Sisera and Jabin at the torrent Kishon,  
 Those destroyed at Endor,

who became dung for the ground.  
 Make their nobles like Oreb and Zeeb,  
 all their princes like Zebah and Zalmunna,  
 Who made a plan together,  
 "Let us seize the pastures of God."  
 My God, turn them into withered grass,  
 into chaff flying before the wind.  
 As a fire raging through a forest,  
 a flame setting mountains ablaze,  
 Pursue them with your tempest;  
 terrify them with your storm.  
 Cover their faces with shame,  
 till they pay you homage, LORD.  
 Let them be dismayed and shamed forever;  
 let them perish in disgrace.  
 Show them you alone are the LORD,  
 the Most High over all the earth.  
 Praise the Father . . .

**Psalm 142**

With full voice I cry to the LORD;  
 with full voice I beseech the LORD.  
 Before God I pour out my complaint,  
 lay bare my distress.

My spirit is faint within me,  
but you know my path.  
Along the way I walk  
they have hidden a trap for me.  
I look to my right hand,  
but no friend is there.  
There is no escape for me;  
no one cares for me.  
I cry out to you, LORD, I say,  
You are my refuge,  
my portion in the land of the living.  
Listen to my cry for help,  
for I am brought very low.  
Rescue me from my pursuers,  
for they are too strong for me.  
Lead me out of my prison,  
that I may give thanks to your name.  
Then the just shall gather around me  
because you have been good to me.  
Praise the Father . . .

### **Psalm 148**

Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
give praise in the heights.  
Praise him, all you angels;  
give praise, all you hosts.  
Praise him, sun and moon;

give praise, all shining stars.  
Praise him, highest heavens,  
you waters above the heavens.  
Let them all praise the LORD's name;  
for the LORD commanded and they were created,  
Assigned them duties forever,  
gave them tasks that will never change.  
Praise the LORD from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deep waters;  
You lightning and hail, snow and clouds,  
storm winds that fulfill his command;  
You mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars;  
You animals wild and tame,  
you creatures that crawl and fly;  
You kings of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all who govern on earth;  
Young men and women too,  
old and young alike.  
Let them all praise the LORD's name,  
for his name alone is exalted,  
majestic above earth and heaven.  
The LORD has lifted high the horn of his people;  
to the glory of all the faithful, of Israel,  
the people near to their God. Hallelujah!  
Praise the Father . . .

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## **VIGILS (even Fridays)**

Lord, open my lips.  
— And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen. Alleluia.

### **INVITATORY: Psalm 24**

The LORD's is the earth and its fullness,  
the world and all its peoples.  
It is he who set it on the seas;

on the waters he made it firm.  
Who shall climb the mountain of the LORD?  
Who shall stand in his holy place?  
The man with clean hands and pure heart,  
who desires not worthless things,  
who has not sworn so as to deceive his neighbor.  
He shall receive blessings from the LORD  
and reward from the God who saves him.  
Such are the men who seek him,  
seek the face of the God of Jacob.  
O gates, lift high your heads;  
grow higher, ancient doors.  
Let him enter, the king of glory!  
Who is the king of glory?  
The LORD, the mighty, the valiant,  
the LORD, the valiant in war.

O gates, lift high your heads;  
grow higher, ancient doors.  
Let him enter, the king of glory!  
Who is he, the king of glory?  
He, the LORD of armies,  
he is the king of glory.

Praise the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit,  
both now and forever.  
The God who is, who was, and is to come,  
at the end of the ages.

## FIRST NOCTURN

### Psalm 13

How long, LORD? Will you utterly forget me?  
How long will you hide your face from me?  
How long must I carry sorrow in my soul,  
grief in my heart day after day?  
How long will my enemy triumph over me?  
Look upon me, answer me, LORD, my God!  
Give light to my eyes lest I sleep in death,  
Lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed,"  
lest my foes rejoice at my downfall.  
I trust in your faithfulness.  
Grant my heart joy in your help,  
That I may sing of the LORD,  
"How good our God has been to me!"  
Praise the Father . . .

### Psalm 17

Hear, LORD, my plea for justice;  
pay heed to my cry;  
Listen to my prayer spoken without guile.  
From you let my vindication come;  
your eyes see what is right.  
You have tested my heart,  
searched it in the night.  
You have tried me by fire,  
but find no malice in me.  
My mouth has not transgressed  
as humans often do.  
As your lips have instructed me,  
I have kept the way of the law.  
My steps have kept to your paths;  
my feet have not faltered.  
I call upon you; answer me, O God.

Turn your ear to me; hear my prayer.  
Show your wonderful love,  
you who deliver with your right arm  
those who seek refuge from their foes.  
Keep me as the apple of your eye;  
hide me in the shadow of your wings  
from the violence of the wicked.  
My ravenous enemies press upon me;  
they close their hearts,  
they fill their mouths with proud roaring.  
Their steps even now encircle me;  
they watch closely, keeping low to the ground,  
Like lions eager for prey,  
like young lions lurking in ambush.  
Rise, O LORD, confront and cast them down;  
rescue me so from the wicked.  
Slay them with your sword;  
with your hand, LORD, slay them;  
snatch them from the world in their prime.  
Their bellies are being filled with your friends;  
their children are satisfied too,  
for they share what is left with their young.  
I am just — let me see your face;  
when I awake,  
let me be filled with your presence.  
Praise the Father . . .

### Psalm 55

Listen, God, to my prayer;  
do not hide from my pleading;  
hear me and give answer.  
I rock with grief;  
I groan at the uproar of the enemy,  
the clamor of the wicked.  
They heap trouble upon me,  
savagely accuse me.  
My heart pounds within me;  
death's terrors fall upon me.  
Fear and trembling overwhelm me;  
shuddering sweeps over me.  
I say, "If only I had wings like a dove  
that I might fly away and find rest.  
Far away I would flee;  
I would stay in the desert.  
I would soon find a shelter  
from the raging wind and storm."  
Lord, check and confuse their scheming.



I see violence and strife in the city  
 making rounds on its walls day and night.  
 Within are mischief and evil;  
 treachery is there as well;  
 oppression and fraud never leave its streets.  
 If an enemy had reviled me,  
 that I could bear;  
 If my foe had viewed me with contempt,  
 from that I could hide.  
 But it was you, my other self,  
 my comrade and friend,  
 You, whose company I enjoyed,  
 at whose side I walked in procession  
 in the house of God.  
 Let death take them by surprise;  
 let them go down alive to Sheol,  
 for evil is in their homes and hearts.  
 But I will call upon God,  
 and the LORD will save me.  
 At dusk, dawn, and noon  
 I will grieve and complain,  
 and my prayer will be heard.

God will give me freedom and peace  
 from those who war against me,  
 though there are many who oppose me.  
 God, who sits enthroned forever,  
 will hear me and humble them.  
 For they will not mend their ways;  
 they have no fear of God.  
 They strike out at friends  
 and go back on their promises.  
 Softer than butter is their speech,  
 but war is in their hearts.  
 Smoother than oil are their words,  
 but they are unsheathed swords.  
 Cast your care upon the LORD,  
 who will give you support.  
 God will never allow the righteous to stumble.  
 But you, God, will bring them down  
 to the pit of destruction.  
 These bloodthirsty liars will not live  
 half their days,  
 but I put my trust in you.  
 Praise the Father . . .

## VIGILS (even Fridays)

### SECOND NOCTURN

#### Psalm 109

O God, whom I praise, do not be silent,  
 for wicked and treacherous mouths attack me.  
 They speak against me with lying tongues;  
 with hateful words they surround me,  
 attacking me without cause.  
 In return for my love they slander me,  
 even though I prayed for them.  
 They repay me evil for good,  
 hatred for my love.  
 My enemies say of me: "Find a lying witness,  
 an accuser to stand by his right hand,  
 That he may be judged and found guilty,  
 that his plea may be in vain.  
 [May his days be few;  
 may another take his office.  
 May his children be fatherless,  
 his wife, a widow.  
 May his children be vagrant beggars,

*driven from their hovels.  
 May the usurer snare all he owns,  
 strangers plunder all he earns.  
 May no one treat him kindly  
 or pity his fatherless children.  
 May his posterity be destroyed,  
 his name cease in the next generation.  
 May the LORD remember his father's guilt;  
 his mother's sin not be canceled.  
 May their guilt be always before the LORD,  
 till their memory is banished from the earth,  
 For he did not remember to show kindness,  
 but hounded the wretched poor  
 and brought death to the brokenhearted.  
 He loved cursing; may it come upon him;  
 he hated blessing; may none come to him.  
 May cursing clothe him like a robe;  
 may it enter his belly like water,  
 seep into his bones like oil.  
 May it be near as the clothes he wears,  
 as the belt always around him."  
 May the LORD bring all this upon my accusers,  
 upon those who speak evil against me.]*

But you, LORD, my God,  
 deal kindly with me for your name's sake;  
 in your great mercy rescue me.  
 For I am sorely in need;  
 my heart is pierced within me.  
 Like a lengthening shadow I near my end,  
 all but swept away like the locust.  
 My knees totter from fasting;  
 my flesh has wasted away.  
 I have become a mockery to them;  
 when they see me, they shake their heads.  
 Help me, LORD, my God;  
 save me in your kindness.  
 Make them know this is your hand,  
 that you, LORD, have acted.  
 Though they curse, may you bless;  
 shame my foes, that your servant may rejoice.  
 Clothe my accusers with disgrace;  
 make them wear shame like a mantle.  
 I will give fervent thanks to the LORD;  
 before all I will praise my God.  
 For God stands at the right hand of the poor  
 to defend them against unjust accusers.  
 Praise the Father . . .

**Psalm 140**

Deliver me, LORD, from the wicked;  
 preserve me from the violent,

From those who plan evil in their hearts,  
 who stir up conflicts every day,  
 Who sharpen their tongues like serpents,  
 venom of asps upon their lips.  
 Keep me, LORD,  
 from the clutches of the wicked;  
 preserve me from the violent,  
 who plot to trip me up.  
 The arrogant have set a trap for me;  
 villains have spread a net,  
 laid snares for me by the wayside.  
 I say to the LORD: You are my God;  
 listen, LORD, to the words of my prayer.  
 My revered LORD, my strong helper,  
 my helmet on the day of battle.  
 LORD, do not grant the desires of the wicked;  
 do not let their plots succeed.  
 Around me they raise their proud heads;  
 may the mischief they threaten overwhelm them.  
 May God rain burning coals upon them,  
 cast them into the grave never more to rise.  
 Slanderers will not survive on earth;  
 evil will quickly entrap the violent.  
 For I know the LORD will secure justice  
 for the needy, their rights for the poor.  
 Then the just will give thanks to your name;  
 the upright will dwell in your presence.  
 Praise the Father . . .

**VIGILS (even Saturdays)**

Lord, open my lips.  
 — And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
 and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning,  
 is now, and ever shall be, world without end.  
 Amen. Alleluia.

**INVITATORY: Psalm 95**

Come, let us sing to the LORD  
 and shout with joy to the Rock who saves us.  
 Let us approach him  
 with praise and thanksgiving  
 and sing joyful songs to the LORD.

The LORD is God, the mighty God,  
 the great king over all the gods.  
 He holds in his hands the depths of the earth  
 and the highest mountains as well.  
 He made the sea; it belongs to him,  
 the dry land, too, for it was formed by his hands.  
 Come, then, let us bow down and worship,  
 bending the knee before the LORD, our maker.  
 For he is our God and we are his people,  
 the flock he shepherds.  
 Today, listen to the voice of the LORD:  
 Do not grow stubborn,  
 as your fathers did in the wilderness,  
 when at Meriba and Massah  
 they challenged me and provoked me,  
 although they had seen all of my works.

Forty years I endured that generation.  
I said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray  
and they do not know my ways."  
So I swore in my anger,  
"They shall not enter into my rest."

Praise the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit,  
both now and forever.  
The God who is, who was, and is to come,  
at the end of the ages.

## FIRST NOCTURN

### Psalm 1

Happy those who do not follow  
the counsel of the wicked,  
Nor go the way of sinners,  
nor sit in company with scoffers.  
Rather, the law of the LORD is their joy;  
God's law they study day and night.  
They are like a tree planted  
near streams of water,  
that yields its fruit in season;  
Its leaves never wither;  
whatever they do prospers.  
But not the wicked!  
They are like chaff driven by the wind.  
Therefore the wicked will not survive judgment,  
nor will sinners in the assembly of the just.  
The LORD watches over the way of the just,  
but the way of the wicked leads to ruin.  
Praise the Father . . .

### Psalm 19

The heavens declare the glory of God;  
the sky proclaims its builder's craft.  
One day to the next conveys that message;  
one night to the next imparts that knowledge.  
There is no word or sound;  
no voice is heard;  
Yet their report goes forth through all the earth,  
their message, to the ends of the world.  
God has pitched there a tent for the sun;  
it comes forth  
like a bridegroom from his chamber,  
and like an athlete joyfully runs its course.  
From one end of the heavens it comes forth;  
its course runs through to the other;

nothing escapes its heat.  
The law of the LORD is perfect,  
refreshing the soul.  
The decree of the LORD is trustworthy,  
giving wisdom to the simple.  
The precepts of the LORD are right,  
rejoicing the heart.  
The command of the LORD is clear,  
enlightening the eye.  
The fear of the LORD is pure,  
enduring forever.  
The statutes of the LORD are true,  
all of them just;  
More desirable than gold,  
than a hoard of purest gold,  
Sweeter also than honey  
or drippings from the comb.  
By them your servant is instructed;  
obeying them brings much reward.  
Who can detect heedless failings?  
Cleanse me from my unknown faults.  
But from willful sins keep your servant;  
let them never control me.  
Then shall I be blameless,  
innocent of grave sin.  
Let the words of my mouth  
meet with your favor,  
keep the thoughts of my heart before you,  
LORD, my rock and my redeemer.  
Praise the Father . . .

### Psalm 45

My heart is stirred by a noble theme,  
as I sing my ode to the king.  
My tongue is the pen  
of a nimble scribe.  
You are the most handsome of men;  
fair speech has graced your lips,  
for God has blessed you forever.  
Gird your sword upon your hip, mighty warrior!  
In splendor and majesty ride on triumphant!  
In the cause of truth and justice  
may your right hand show you wondrous deeds.  
Your arrows are sharp;  
peoples will cower at your feet;  
the king's enemies will lose heart.  
Your throne, O god, stands forever;  
your royal scepter is a scepter for justice.

You love justice and hate wrongdoing;  
therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
with the oil of gladness above your fellow kings.  
With myrrh, aloes, and cassia  
your robes are fragrant.  
From ivory-paneled palaces  
stringed instruments bring you joy.  
Daughters of kings are your lovely wives;  
a princess arrayed in Ophir's gold  
comes to stand at your right hand.  
Listen, my daughter, and understand;  
pay me careful heed.  
Forget your people and your father's house,  
that the king might desire your beauty.  
He is your lord;  
honor him, daughter of Tyre.

Then the richest of the people  
will seek your favor with gifts.  
All glorious is the king's daughter as she enters,  
her raiment threaded with gold;  
In embroidered apparel she is led to the king.  
The maids of her train are presented to the king.  
They are led in with glad and joyous acclaim;  
they enter the palace of the king.  
The throne of your fathers your sons will have;  
you shall make them princes  
through all the land.  
I will make your name renowned  
through all generations;  
thus nations shall praise you forever.  
Praise the Father . . .

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## VIGILS (even Saturdays)

### SECOND NOCTURN

#### Psalm 46

God is our refuge and our strength,  
an ever-present help in distress.  
Thus we do not fear, though earth be shaken  
and mountains quake to the depths of the sea,  
Though its waters rage and foam  
and mountains totter at its surging.  
The LORD of hosts is with us;  
our stronghold is the God of Jacob.  
Streams of the river gladden the city of God,  
the holy dwelling of the Most High.  
God is in its midst; it shall not be shaken;  
God will help it at break of day.  
Though nations rage and kingdoms totter,  
God's voice thunders and the earth trembles.  
The LORD of hosts is with us;  
our stronghold is the God of Jacob.  
Come and see the works of the LORD,  
who has done fearsome deeds on earth;  
Who stops wars to the ends of the earth,  
breaks the bow, splinters the spear,  
and burns the shields with fire;  
Who says: "Be still, and know that I am God!"

I am exalted among the nations,  
exalted on the earth."  
The LORD of hosts is with us;  
our stronghold is the God of Jacob.  
Praise the Father . . .

#### Psalm 48

Great is the LORD and highly praised  
in the city of our God:  
The holy mountain, fairest of heights,  
the joy of all the earth,  
Mount Zion, the heights of Zaphon,  
the city of the great king.  
God is its citadel,  
renowned as a stronghold.  
See! The kings assembled,  
together they invaded.  
When they looked they were astounded;  
terrified, they were put to flight!  
Trembling seized them there,  
anguish, like a woman's labor,  
As when the east wind  
wrecks the ships of Tarshish!  
What we had heard we now see  
in the city of the LORD of hosts,  
In the city of our God,  
founded to last forever.

O God, within your temple  
we ponder your steadfast love.  
Like your name, O God,  
your praise reaches the ends of the earth.  
Your right hand is fully victorious.  
Mount Zion is glad! The cities of Judah rejoice  
because of your saving deeds!  
Go about Zion, walk all around it,  
note the number of its towers.  
Consider the ramparts, examine its citadels,  
that you may tell future generations:  
“Yes, so mighty is God,  
our God who leads us always!”  
Praise the Father . . .

### **Psalm 72**

O God, give your judgment to the king;  
your justice to the son of kings;  
That he may govern your people with justice,  
your oppressed with right judgment,  
That the mountains may yield their bounty  
for the people, and the hills great abundance,  
That he may defend  
the oppressed among the people,  
save the poor and crush the oppressor.  
May he live as long as the sun endures,  
like the moon, through all generations.  
May he be like rain coming down  
upon the fields, like showers watering the earth,  
That abundance may flourish in his days,  
great bounty, till the moon be no more.

May he rule from sea to sea,  
from the river to the ends of the earth.  
May his foes kneel before him,  
his enemies lick the dust.  
May the kings of Tarshish and the islands  
bring tribute,  
the kings of Arabia and Seba offer gifts.  
May all kings bow before him,  
all nations serve him.  
For he rescues the poor when they cry out,  
the oppressed who have no one to help.  
He shows pity to the needy and the poor  
and saves the lives of the poor.  
From extortion and violence he frees them,  
for precious is their blood in his sight.  
Long may he live, receiving gold from Arabia,  
prayed for without cease, blessed day by day.  
May wheat abound in the land,  
flourish even on the mountain heights.  
May his fruit increase like Lebanon's,  
his wheat like the grasses of the land.  
May his name be blessed forever;  
as long as the sun, may his name endure.  
May the tribes of the earth  
give blessings with his name;  
may all the nations regard him as favored.  
Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wonderful deeds.  
Blessed be his glorious name forever;  
may all the earth be filled with the LORD's glory.  
Amen and amen.  
Praise the Father . . .