

Psalm 1

The Way of the Righteous

Reader: ¹How blessed is the person
1st Congr.: who will not walk
2nd Congr.: in the counsel of the wicked;
1st Congr.: and will not stand
2nd Congr.: in the way of sinners;
1st Congr.: and will not sit
2nd Congr.: in the seat of the scoffers.

Reader: ²For with the law of the Covenant Lord
All: is his delight,
Reader: and in his law he meditates
All: day and night.

Reader: ³So he shall be like a tree
 planted by watering streams
 that bears its fruit
 in its time.
1st Congr.: Its leaf
 shall never wither.
2nd Congr.: So everything he does
 always prospers.

Reader: ⁴Never will it be so
All: for the wicked!
Reader: For they will be like a hollow shell
All: that the wind blows about.

Reader: ⁵For evil people never will stand
All: at the time of judgment,
Reader: nor sinners
All: with the righteous when they assemble.

Reader: ⁶For the Covenant LORD loves
All: the lifestyle of the righteous,
All: but the lifestyle of the wicked
Reader: will lead to ruin.

Psalm 2

Submitting to the Son

1st Congr.: ¹Why do the nations
 rage?

2nd Congr.: And the peoples
 plot vainly?

1st Congr.: ²Kings of the earth
 take their stand;

2nd Congr.: and potentates
 are set

All: against the Lord of the Covenant,
 and against his Messiah:

Chorus: ³Let us break
 their bands
 and fling from us
 their fetters.'

1st Congr.: ⁴He who sits in heaven
 laughs;

2nd Congr.: the Lord
 mocks them.

1st Congr.: ⁵Then he will address them
 in his wrath;

2nd Congr.: and in his fierceness
 he will terrify them:

1st Reader: ⁶For I have installed my king
 on Zion my holy mountain.'

2nd Reader: ⁷I will proclaim the decree
 of the Covenant LORD.
 He said to me:

1st Reader: "You are my Son;
 this day
 I have given birth to you.

⁸ *“Ask of me*
and I will give you
the nations
as your inheritance,
and as your possession
the ends of the earth.

⁹ *“You will herd them*
with a rod of iron;
as the bowl of a potter
you will smash them.”

3rd Reader: ¹⁰ *And now, you kings*
act wisely;
All: yield to correction,
you who judge the earth.

3rd Reader: ¹¹ *Serve the Covenant LORD*
with fear;
All: and rejoice
with trembling.

3rd Reader: ¹² *Kiss the Son to avert his anger,*
or you will perish in the way.
For his anger will consume in a moment.
All: Blessed are all who trust in him.

Psalm 8

The Measure of a Man

To the chief musician. On the *gittith*. A psalm of David.

Reader: ¹Covenant LORD, our Lord,
 how majestic is your name
 in all the earth!
For you have set your glory
 higher than heaven itself.

1st Congr.: ²Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings
 you have determined that strength should
 come

2nd Congr.: in response to your adversaries,
 to silence the enemy and the vengeful.

Reader: ³When I see
 your heavens,
 the work of your fingers,
 moon and stars
 which you have ordained;

1st Congr.: ⁴What is man
 that you give him any consideration,

2nd Congr.: or the son of man
 that you concern yourself with him?

1st Congr.: ⁵You have made him a little less
 than the angels;

2nd Congr.: with glory and honour
 you have crowned him.

1st Congr.: ⁶You have made him rule
 over the works of your hands;

2nd Congr.: all things
 you have set under his feet:

Reader: ⁷all sheep and oxen,
as well as the cattle of the fields;
birds of the sky,
and fish of the sea,
including everything that travels the paths
of the sea.

All: ⁸Covenant LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name
in all the earth!

Psalm II

The Tried and the Trusted

For the chief musician. By David.

Reader: ¹In the LORD of the Covenant I have trusted.
How then do all of you say to my soul,

Congr.: ‘Flee to your people’s mountain
like a bird’?

Reader: ²For behold the wicked!
They bend their bow,
they set their arrow on the string
against the just
to shoot from the thick darkness
against the upright in heart.

All: ³If the foundations be destroyed,
what will the righteous do?

Reader: ⁴But the LORD of the Covenant—
Congr.: He *is* in his holy temple.
Reader: The LORD of the Covenant—
Congr.: His throne *is* in heaven.

All: His eyes
test,
his eyelids
try
the sons of men.

Reader: ⁵The LORD of the Covenant tries
the righteous;
Congr.: but the wicked and the lovers of violence
his soul hates.

Reader: ⁶He will rain on the wicked
snares, fire and brimstone;
Congr.: and a tempest of poisonous winds
will be the portion of their cup.

All:

⁷For the righteous LORD of the Covenant
loves righteous deeds;
the upright
will gaze on his face.

Psalm 14

The Atheistic Fool

To the chief musician. By David.

1st Reader: ¹The fool declares to himself,
 'There is no god!'

All: They are depraved.
 They do abhorrent things.
 Not one of them does any good.

1st Reader: ²The Covenant LORD of heaven scrutinizes
 the sons of men

All: to see if there are any
 who understand,
 who search for God:

2nd Reader: ³Every single one of them has turned away;
 unitedly they have become degenerate.
 Not one of them does any good,
 not a single one.

All: ⁴Have they no knowledge at all,
 all these workers of iniquity,
 who devour my people as they devour bread?
 They refuse to call on the Covenant LORD.

1st Reader: ⁵Right then and there
 they become terrified with great anxiety!
 For God abides
 among the [assembled] generations of the
 righteous.

⁶The perspective of the meek
 all of you ridicule,
 because the Covenant LORD is his only
 confidence.

All: ⁷But let salvation for Israel
 come out from Mount Zion!

1st Reader: When the Covenant LORD restores the losses
 of his people,

All:

Jacob
will be overjoyed,
and Israel
will be ecstatic.

Psalm 15

Abiding Securely in Holiness

A psalm of David.

Reader: ¹Covenant LORD,
Who shall sojourn
 in your tent?
Who shall dwell
 in your holy mountain?

1st Congr.: ²He who walks
 uprightly,
2nd Congr.: and does
 righteousness,
All: and speaks
 truth from his heart;

1st Congr.: ³he who does not slander
 with his tongue,
2nd Congr.: and does not wrong
 his neighbour,
All: and does not humiliate
 his intimate friend.

Reader: ⁴He is repulsed by
 the unscrupulous;
but the person who fears the Covenant LORD
 he holds in highest regard.

1st Congr.: He swears to [his own] hurt
 but will not change.

2nd Congr.: ⁵His money he will not lend
 at an exorbitant interest rate,

All: and a bribe to frame the innocent
 he will never accept.

Reader: He who lives in this way
 will never be ruined.

Psalm 16

Overcoming Life's Last Enemy

A michtam of David.

- 1st Reader:* ¹Preserve me, Almighty God,
Congr.: for I have entrusted myself wholly to you.
- 1st Reader:* ²[My soul], you have declared to the LORD of
 the Covenant:
Congr.: ‘You are my Lord;
 whatever good I experience
 means nothing apart from you.’
- 2nd Reader:* ³Regarding the holy and noble ones
 who live in the land,
 all my delight is in them.
- ⁴‘They will only multiply their griefs
 who rush to find some other god.’
1st Reader: I never will condescend to pour out
 an offering of life-blood to them;
Congr.: I could never even form their names
 on my lips.
- 1st Reader:* ⁵The Covenant LORD [himself]
 is my portion and my cup;
Congr.: you keep my allotment secure.
- 1st Reader:* ⁶The boundary lines have fallen out for me
 in the most pleasant circumstances;
Congr.: beyond a doubt
 I have a delightful inheritance.
- 1st Reader:* ⁷I will bless the Covenant LORD
 who counsels me;
Congr.: even in the darkest of nights
 my inmost thoughts correct me.
- 1st Reader:* ⁸I am committed to have the Covenant LORD
 face to face with me all the time;
Congr.: because he remains at my right hand,
 nothing can disturb me.

1st Reader: ⁹Therefore my heart is filled with joy,
 and my whole being rejoices;

Congr.: this body of flesh
 dwells in security as well.

1st Reader: ¹⁰For you will not abandon any part of me
 to the grave,

Congr.: you will not allow your holy one
 to see corruption.

1st Reader: ¹¹You have assured me
 of the path that leads to life;

Congr.: satisfying joys
 will be found in your presence.

All: Pleasures that last forever
 are in your right hand.

Psalm 32

A Guidebook for the Guilty

By David. A *maskil*.

1st Congr.: ¹Oh how blessed is he
2nd Congr.: whose wrongdoing is carried away!
 whose sin is covered [by the blood]!
1st Congr.: ²Oh how blessed is the person
2nd Congr.: whom the Covenant LORD does not hold
 accountable
 for his iniquity;
 and no self-deceit
 is in his spirit.

1st Reader: ³While I maintained my silence,
 my very bones felt as if they were ageing
 as I kept inwardly moaning all day long.

⁴For day and night
 your hand weighed me down;
 my strength melted away
as in the heat of summer.

Selah

⁵Then—
 My sin
 I made fully known to you,
 and my iniquity
 I no longer tried to cover.
I said,
 ‘I will confess my wrongdoings
 to the Covenant LORD,’
 and you carried away
 the guilt of my sin.

Selah

All: ⁶Because of your gracious forgiveness,
 everyone who reveres you will appeal to you
 in the time when you can be found.
No, the torrent of floodwaters
 will not reach up to touch him.

1st Reader: ⁷You
are a hiding place for me.
From assault
you will preserve me;
with songs celebrating deliverance
you will surround me.

Selah

2nd Reader: ⁸'I will make you wise and point you
in the way you should go:
I will counsel you
with my eye.

⁹Let not any one of you be
as the horse—or even the mule!
He has no sense.
Bit and bridle are his ornamentation,
but only for restraint.
Otherwise you will never
get him near you.'

All: ¹⁰Numerous agonies
invariably come to the wicked;
but the one who rests his case with the
Covenant LORD
will be enveloped in his mercy.

1st Reader: ¹¹Be happy in the Covenant LORD and rejoice,
all you who have been declared righteous;
Sing for joy,
everyone whose heart has been made upright.

Psalm 44

A Prayer of the Perplexed

To the chief musician. By the sons of Korah. A *maskil*.

Reader: ¹O God,
 With our ears
 we have heard,
 our fathers
 have told us
All: of the work you did
 in their days,
 in days long ago.

1st Congr.: ²You with your [own] hand
 dispossessed the nations,
 and planted them instead.
2nd Congr.: You troubled the peoples,
 and ejected them.

1st Congr.: ³For not with their sword
 did they possess the land;
2nd Congr.: and their [own] strong arm
 did not save them.

1st Congr.: But your right hand
2nd Congr.: and your strong arm
1st Congr.: and your bright countenance!
All: For you found pleasure in them.

Reader: ⁴You [alone] are the one, my King, O God:
 command conquests for Jacob.

⁵Through you
 we will drive out
 our adversaries;
 in your name
 we will trample
 those who rise up to oppose us.

⁶For in my bow
I will not trust,
and my sword
will not deliver me.

⁷For you [are the one who] saves us
from our adversaries;
and those who hate us
you have shamed.

All: ⁸In God we glory
all the day,
and your name we celebrate
forever.

Selah

1st Congr.: ⁹But ah! You have loathed and humiliated us,
2nd Congr.: and you have not marched out with our
troops.

1st Congr.: ¹⁰You make us retreat
before the enemy,
2nd Congr.: and those that hate us
ruin us.

1st Congr.: ¹¹You have turned us over
like sheep to be devoured,
2nd Congr.: and you have scattered us
among the nations.

1st Congr.: ¹²You sold your people
without gaining a bit of wealth,
2nd Congr.: and you realized no profit
by their sale.

1st Congr.: ¹³You have made us an embarrassment
to everyone who knows us,
2nd Congr.: a scandal and an object of ridicule
to those who are closest to us.

1st Congr.: ¹⁴You have made us a taunt-word
among the nations;

2nd Congr.: the people can only shake their heads
at us.

Reader: ¹⁵All day long my disgrace
confronts me,
and the shame of my face
covers me

¹⁶because of the constant harangue and
denunciation
coming from the vengeful adversary.

Reader: ¹⁷All this [calamity] has come on us.

1st Congr.: Yet we have not forgotten you,

2nd Congr.: and we have not been untrue
to your covenant.

1st Congr.: ¹⁸Our heart
has not strayed,

2nd Congr.: and our walk
has not deviated from your path,

1st Congr.: ¹⁹Even though you have broken us
in the realm of dragons,

2nd Congr.: and you have covered us
with the shadow of death.

1st Congr.: ²⁰If we have forgotten
the name of our God,
or stretched out our hands
to a strange god,

2nd Congr.: ²¹shall not God
search out this thing?
For he knows
the secrets of the heart.

1st Congr.: ²²But it is on your behalf that we are killed
all the day;

2nd Congr.: we are regarded
as sheep for the slaughter.

Reader: ²³Awake!
How can you sleep, O Lord?

All: Arise!
Do not despise us forever.

Reader: ²⁴Why do you hide your face?
You forget our affliction and our oppression.

All: ²⁵For to the dust our soul
is bowed down;
Our belly cleaves
to the ground.

Reader: ²⁶Rise up
to help us,
All: and redeem us
to confirm your mercies.

Psalm 80

The Man at God's Right Hand

For the chief musician. To 'The lilies.' A testimony.
By Asaph. A psalm.

- Reader:* ¹**Shepherd of Israel!**
Hear us,
 you who lead Joseph like a flock.
- Congr.:* Shine forth,
 you who sit enthroned among the cherubim.
- Reader:* ²Before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh
Congr.: stir up your might
 and come to save us.
- Reader:* ³**O God,**
All: *make us return.*
 Let your face shine on us,
 and we shall be saved.
- Reader:* ⁴**Covenant LORD, God of hosts,**
Congr.: how long will you [pour out] smoke
 against the prayer of your people?
- Reader:* ⁵You have made them feed
 on tears for bread.
- Congr.:* You have made them drink
 tears without measure.
- Reader:* ⁶You have made us a source of strife
 to our neighbours;
- Congr.:* and our enemies
 mock us.
- Reader:* ⁷**God of hosts,**
All: *make us return.*
 Let your face shine on us,
 and we shall be saved.
- Reader:* ⁸You brought out
 a vine from Egypt;
You drove out nations,
 and planted her.

Congr.: ⁹You made preparation for her,
 you rooted her,
 and she filled the earth.

Reader: ¹⁰The mountains were covered
 with her shadow;

Congr.: The cedars of God
 with her tendrils.

Reader: ¹¹She sent forth
 her shoots
 to the sea;

Congr.: and to the river
 her branches.

Reader: ¹²Why have you broken down
 her walls?

Congr.: All who pass by
 have tugged at her.

Reader: ¹³Swine from the wood
 tear at her;

Congr.: beasts of the field
 feed on her.

Reader: ¹⁴**God of hosts,**

Congr.: return, we plead.
 Look down from heaven;
 see and visit this vine,
 ¹⁵this shoot your right hand planted.
 [Look] on the son
 you have made strong for yourself.

Reader: ¹⁶It is burned with fire,
 it is cut down;

Congr.: by the rebuke of your face
 they are consumed.

Reader: ¹⁷Let your hand rest
 on the man of your right hand;

Congr.: on the son of man
 you have made strong for yourself.

Reader: ¹⁸Then we shall not turn back from you;
Congr.: you will revive us,
 and we shall call on your name.

Reader: ¹⁹**Covenant LORD, God of hosts,**
All: *make us return.*
 Let your face shine on us,
 and we shall be saved.

Psalm 82

The Judge Judges the Judges

A psalm of Asaph.

Reader: ¹God is set
 among the assembly of the great;
 in the midst of the gods
 he renders judgment:

²How long will you judge
 in favour of iniquity,
and keep on upholding
 the cause of the wicked?

Selah

1st Congr.: ³Maintain the just cause
 of the poor and the orphan;

2nd Congr.: do justice
 for the needy and the destitute.

1st Congr.: ⁴Deliver
 the poor and the penniless;

2nd Congr.: rescue [them]
 from the hand of wicked men.

1st Congr.: ⁵They have no understanding;
 they cannot comprehend.

2nd Congr.: They keep walking in darkness;
 the foundations of the world tremble.

Reader: ⁶I said,
 “All of you
 are gods;
 each one of you
 is a son of the Most High.
⁷Yet inescapably as man
 you will die,
and just like one more prince
 you will fall.”

All:

⁸Rise up, O God!
Judge the whole earth
for you possess all nations!

Psalm 84

Yearning for God's House

To the chief musician. On the *gittith*. By the sons of Korah. A psalm.

Reader: ¹How lovely are your dwellings,

Congr.: Covenant LORD of hosts!

Reader: ²My soul yearns, even faints,

Congr.: for the courts of the Covenant LORD.

Reader: My heart and my flesh cry out

Congr.: for the living God.

Reader: ³Even the sparrow

has found a house,

and the swallow

a nest where she may lay her young:

Congr.: right at your altars, O Covenant LORD
of hosts,

my King and my God.

Reader: ⁴How blessed are those

who dwell in your house!

Congr.: They will continually praise you.

Reader: ⁵How blessed is the man

whose strength is in you!

Congr.: In his heart is the highway
to your house.

Reader: ⁶As they pass through the vale of tears,

they transform it

into a place of springs;

and the autumn rains cover it

with refreshing pools.

Congr.: ⁷They move forward

from strength to strength;

they all shall appear

before God in Zion.

Reader: ⁸Covenant LORD, God of hosts,

hear my prayer;

Congr.: please listen,
O God of Jacob.

Selah

Reader: ⁹Look on our shield,
O God;

Congr.: look sympathetically
on the face of your anointed one.

Reader: ¹⁰For better is one day in your courts
Congr.: than a thousand days anywhere else.

Reader: I would choose to be a doorkeeper
in the house of my God

Congr.: rather than to be enclosed
in the tents of wickedness.

Reader: ¹¹For a sun and a shield
is the Covenant LORD [our] God.
Grace and glory
he freely bestows.

Congr.: No good thing will he withhold
from those who walk in wholehearted
devotion.

Reader: ¹²Covenant LORD of hosts,

Congr.: How blessed is the man
who trusts in you!

Psalm 87

Born Again in Zion

By the sons of Korah. A psalm. A song.

1st Reader: ¹His foundation
Congr.: is in the holy mountains.

1st Reader: ²The Covenant LORD loves the gates of Zion
Congr.: above all the dwellings of Jacob.

1st Reader: ³Glorious things are spoken of you,
Congr.: O city of God:

Selah

2nd Reader: ⁴I will remember Rahab and Babylon
 among those who know me [in love].
Behold! Philistia and Tyre with Cush—
 each of these was born there.'

1st Reader: ⁵For of Zion it shall be said:
2nd Reader: 'This one and that one was born in her.'
1st Reader: For the Most High himself—
Congr.: he shall establish her.

1st Reader: ⁶The LORD of the Covenant shall recall when
 he records the peoples:
2nd Reader: 'This one was born there.'

Selah

1st Reader: ⁷Both the vocalists and the instrumentalists
 [will attest]:
Choir: 'All my outpourings originate in you.'

Psalm 91

Abiding Safely in His Presence

1st Reader: ¹He who settles down
 in the secret place of God most high
 will abide
 under the shadow of Shaddai.

All: ²I will say of the LORD of the Covenant,
 ‘My refuge and my fortress—my God!
 I trust him.’

1st Reader: ³For he shall deliver you
 from the lure of the ambush,
 from the lethal pestilence.

1st Congr.: ⁴With his feathers
 he will envelop you,

2nd Congr.: and under his wings
 you will trust.

1st Reader: His truth will be
 your shield and your tower for
 defence.

1st Congr.: ⁵You will have no fear
 for the terror
 of night,

2nd Congr.: for the arrow that flies
 by day;

1st Congr.: ⁶for the plague that stalks
 in thick darkness,

2nd Congr.: for the destruction that devastates
 at noonday.

1st Congr.: ⁷A thousand
 will fall at your side,

2nd Congr.: a horde
 at your right hand;

1st Reader: but it will not even come near you.

1st Congr.: ⁸Only with your eyes
 will you behold;

2nd Congr.: the recompense of the wicked
you will see.

1st Reader: ⁹Because the Covenant LORD, my refuge,
you have firmly set
as God most high, your dwelling-place,

1st Congr.: ¹⁰you will never suffer
evil;

2nd Congr.: and a plague
will not come near your tent.

1st Reader: ¹¹For he will command his messengers
about you,
to keep you in all your ways;

¹²in their hands they will lift you up
so that you will not bruise your foot
against a stone.

1st Congr.: ¹³On the lion and the cobra
you will tread;

2nd Congr.: you will trample
the young lion and the snake.

2nd Reader: ¹⁴Because he has focused his desire on me,
I will rescue him;
I will make him inaccessible
because he has known my name.

¹⁵He will call on me,
and I will answer him.
I will be with him
in distress;
I will deliver him
and glorify him.

¹⁶With long life
I will satisfy him;
and I will make him see
my salvation.'

Psalm 95

Worshipping God Your Rock

1st Reader: ¹Come,
 let us sing
 to the Covenant LORD;
Congr.: let us shout
 to the Rock of our salvation.

1st Reader: ²Let us hasten before him
 with thanksgiving;
Congr.: with songs
 let us shout to him.

1st Reader: ³For a great God
 is the Covenant LORD,
Congr.: and a great King
 over all gods,

1st Reader: ⁴who has in his hand
 the unsearchable deeps of the earth,
Congr.: and the peaks of the mountains
 are his.

1st Reader: ⁵To him belongs the sea,
 for he made it;
Congr.: and the dry land,
 for his hands formed it.

1st Reader: ⁶Come,
 let us worship
 and bow down;
Congr.: let us kneel
 before the Covenant Lord our Maker.

1st Reader: ⁷For he
 is our God,
Congr.: and we
 are the people of his pasture
 and the flock of his hand.

1st Reader: ⁸Today, if you will obey his voice,
do not harden your heart
as at Meribah,
as in the day of Massah in the wilderness.

2nd Reader: ⁹When
your fathers tried me;
they tested me
and they saw my work.
¹⁰For forty years I was disgusted
with that generation
And I said,
'A people erring of heart
are they;
and they
do not know my ways.'
¹¹To whom I swore in my wrath:
'They shall never enter my rest.'

Psalm 96

A New Song about the Old Story

Reader: ¹Sing to the Covenant LORD

1st Congr.: a new song;

Reader: sing to the Covenant LORD,

2nd Congr.: all the earth;

Reader: ²sing to the Covenant LORD,

All: bless his name.

Reader: ³Tell the good news of his salvation
 day after day;

1st Congr.: declare among the nations
 his glory;

2nd Congr.: among all peoples
 his wondrous works.

Reader: ⁴For great is the Lord
 and greatly to be praised.

1st Congr.: He should be feared
 above all gods;

2nd Congr.: ⁵for all the gods of the nations are impotent,
 but the Covenant LORD made the heavens.

Reader: ⁶Grandeur and glory radiate from him;

All: might and elegance mark his sanctuary.

Reader: ⁷Ascribe to the Covenant LORD

1st Congr.: O families of nations;

Reader: ascribe to the Covenant LORD

2nd Congr.: glory and strength;

Reader: ⁸ascribe to the Covenant LORD

All: the glory his name deserves.

Reader: Bring an offering,
 and come into his courts;

1st Congr.: ⁹bow before the LORD of the Covenant
 in the splendour of holiness.

2nd Congr.: Tremble before him,
all the earth.

Reader: ¹⁰Announce to the nations,
'The LORD of the Covenant reigns!'

1st Congr.: Indeed, the world is firmly established,
it cannot be moved.

2nd Congr.: He will judge the nations
with uprightness.

Reader: ¹¹The heavens will be glad,
and the earth shall rejoice;

1st Congr.: the sea will cheer,
along with its teeming mass.

2nd Congr.: ¹²The field will be joyful,
and all that is in it.

Reader: Then all the trees of the forest
¹³will sing for joy before the Covenant LORD,
for he comes!

All: For he comes to judge the earth;
he will judge the world in righteousness,
and the nations with his truth.

Psalm 99

‘Holy, Holy, Holy’

Reader: ¹The Covenant LORD is crowned King,
Congr.: the nations tremble;
Reader: he sits enthroned among the heavenly host,
Congr.: the world shakes.

Reader: ²The Covenant LORD is great
 in Zion,
Congr.: he is exalted
 over all the nations.

Reader: ³They shall praise your great and awesome
 name,
All: for holy is he.

Reader: ⁴The King with all his might
 has shown his love for justice;
 you
 have confirmed just judgments.
Congr.: Justice and righteousness
 you have done in Jacob.

Reader: ⁵Exalt the Covenant LORD our God,
 and bow at the stool of his feet,
All: for holy is he.

Reader: ⁶Moses and Aaron were among his priests,
 Samuel among those who called on his name.
Congr.: They called to the Covenant LORD
 and he answered them.

Reader: ⁷In the pillar of cloud
 he spoke to them;
Congr.: they kept his ordinances
 and the statute he gave them.

Reader: ⁸O Covenant LORD, our God,
 you answered them;
Congr.: a forgiving God
 you were to them,
 though repaying them for their deeds.

Reader: ⁹Exalt the Covenant LORD our God,
 and bow at his holy mountain;
All: for holy is the Covenant LORD our God.

Psalm 106

Trust and Obey

Reader: ¹Hallelujah!
 All of you give thanks to the Covenant LORD,
All: for he is good;
 his compassion lasts forever.

Reader: ²Who can adequately declare
 the noble deeds of the Covenant LORD,
 or make people understand
 all the reasons he deserves praise?

All: ³How blessed are those
 who maintain justice,
 who do the right all the time!

Reader: ⁴Remember me, O Covenant LORD,
 when you show favour towards your people;
 include me
 when you act to save,

 ⁵that I too may experience
 the well-being of those you have chosen,
 that I may rejoice
 in the joy of your nation,

 that I may say 'Hallelujah!'
 with the people you have claimed as your own.

All: ⁶[But] we have sinned along with our
 forefathers;
 we have acted crookedly and done the wrong.

1st Congr.: ⁷Our forefathers in Egypt
 gave little consideration
 to your wondrous miracles;
2nd Congr.: they kept forgetting
 your numerous acts of mercy.

1st Congr.: So they rose up in rebellion
 at the sea,
2nd Congr.: when they faced the Red Sea.

Reader: ⁸But despite it all he saved them
 to maintain the glory of his name,
 to make people recognize his power to save.

⁹He rebuked the Red Sea,
 and it dried up;
he made them walk in its depths
 as though they were trekking across a desert.

¹⁰He snatched them from the hand
 of the one who hated them,
and freed them from the grip
 of the enemy.

¹¹Water completely covered
 those who had distressed them;
 not one of them survived.

¹²Then they shouted 'Amen'
 to his promises,
and they sang
 his praise.

1st Congr.: ¹³How quickly they forgot
 his works!

2nd Congr.: They could not wait
 for his advice.

1st Congr.: ¹⁴They had strong cravings
 in the desert,

2nd Congr.: so they put God on trial
 in the wilderness.

1st Congr.: ¹⁵He gave them
 exactly what they asked,

2nd Congr.: but sent leanness
 into their soul ...

Reader: ⁴³Time after time he rescued them
 but they kept rebelling against their counsel.
They were weakened
 by their constant sin.

⁴⁴But he saw their distress,
and heard their outcry.

⁴⁵He remembered his covenant with them,
and showed leniency according to his
boundless love.

⁴⁶He made all those who had taken them
captive
treat them with mercy.

All: ⁴⁷Save us, O Covenant LORD our God!
Gather us from the nations
so that we may give thanks to your holy
name
and joyfully shout, 'Hallelujah!'

Reader: ⁴⁸Blessed be the Covenant LORD, the God of
Israel,
forever and ever.

Let all the people say:

All: 'Amen!
Hallelujah!'

Psalm 110

The Glories of Our Priestly King

By David. A psalm.

1st Reader: ¹The Covenant LORD solemnly said to my Lord:

2nd Reader: ‘Sit at my right hand
 until I make your enemies
 a footstool for your feet.’

1st Congr.: ²The LORD of the Covenant will extend from Zion
 your mighty rod;

2nd Congr.: rule
 in the midst of your enemies.

1st Congr.: ³Your people will be a freewill offering
 in the day of your strength;

2nd Congr.: in the majesty of holiness
 from the womb of the morning
 your youth will arise for you like the dew.

1st Reader: ⁴The Covenant LORD has sworn
 and never will change:

2nd Reader: ‘You are a priest forever
 after the pattern of Melchizedek.’

1st Congr.: ⁵The Lord at your right hand
 shall crush kings in the day of your wrath.

2nd Congr.: ⁶He will judge the nations,
 heaping up corpses;

1st Congr.: he will crush heads
 across the breadth of the earth.

2nd Congr.: ⁷From the brook along the way
 he will drink.

All: So he will lift high his head.

Psalm 113
*‘Hallelujah!’ for God’s Help
to the Humbled*

- Reader:* ¹Hallelu Yah!
Praise,
 all you servants of the Covenant LORD!
- Praise
 the name of the Covenant LORD!
- 1st Congr.:* ²Let the name of the Covenant LORD be blessed
 from now
 to eternity.
- 2nd Congr.:* ³From the rising of the sun
 to its going down
let the name of the Covenant LORD be praised.
- Reader:* ⁴High
 above all nations
 is the Covenant LORD;
- All:* above the heavens
 is his glory.
- Reader:* ⁵Who
 is as the Covenant LORD our God?
- 1st Congr.:* Who makes [himself] high
 to reign;
- 2nd Congr.:* ⁶Who makes [himself] low
 to see
- All:* in the heavens
 and in the earth.
- Reader:* ⁷He raises the poor
 from the dust;
- All:* he exalts the needy
 from the dunghill.
- Reader:* ⁸To make them sit
 with princes,

All: with the princes of his people.

Reader: ⁹He makes the barren woman
dwell in her home
as a mother of sons rejoicing.

All: Hallelu Yah!

Psalm 118

A Eucharistic Psalm

1st Reader: ¹Give thanks to the LORD of the Covenant,
 for he is good;
 his covenant love endures forever.

1st Congr.: ²Let Israel say,

2nd Congr.: ‘His covenant love endures forever!’

1st Congr.: ³Let the house of Aaron say,

2nd Congr.: ‘His covenant love endures forever!’

1st Congr.: ⁴Let those who fear the Covenant LORD say,

2nd Congr.: ‘His covenant love endures forever!’

2nd Reader: ⁵In my distress I called out to the Covenant
 LORD.

 The LORD of the Covenant answered me
 and gave me great liberty.

⁶The Covenant LORD is for me;

 I will not fear.

What can man do to me?

⁷The Covenant LORD is for me

 among those who help me;

so I shall look in triumph

 on those who hate me.

1st Congr.: ⁸It is better to take refuge in the LORD of the
 Covenant

2nd Congr.: than to trust in man.

1st Congr.: ⁹It is better to take refuge in the LORD of the
 Covenant

2nd Congr.: than to trust in nobles.

2nd Reader: ¹⁰All nations surrounded me;
 in the name of the Covenant LORD I cut
 them off.

¹¹They surrounded me, swarmed about me;
 in the name of the Covenant LORD I cut
 them off.

¹²They swarmed about me like bees;
they were extinguished
as quickly as thorns that blaze up.
In the name of the Covenant LORD I cut
them off.

¹³You pushed me violently that I might fall,
but the Covenant LORD helped me.

¹⁴‘My strength and my song is the Covenant
LORD,
and he has become my salvation.’

1st Reader: ¹⁵Voices singing and shouting, ‘Victory!’
come from the tents of the righteous:

1st Congr.: ‘The right hand of the Covenant LORD
2nd Congr.: does valiantly!

1st Congr.: ¹⁶The right hand of the Covenant LORD
2nd Congr.: is exalted!

1st Congr.: The right hand of the Covenant LORD
2nd Congr.: does valiantly!’

2nd Reader: ¹⁷I shall not die, but live
and declare the works of the Covenant
LORD.

¹⁸The LORD of the Covenant has disciplined
me severely,
but he has not given me over to death.

¹⁹Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I shall enter through them.
I shall give thanks to the Covenant LORD.

Chorus: ²⁰Here is the gate of the Covenant LORD!
Righteous people can enter through it.

2nd Reader: ²¹I shall give thanks to you,
because you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

1st Reader: ²²The stone which the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

1st Congr.: ²³Only the LORD of the Covenant could have
 done this thing;

2nd Congr.: it is wondrous in our eyes.

1st Congr.: ²⁴Only the LORD of the Covenant could have
 made this day;

2nd Congr.: we will rejoice and be glad in it.

1st Congr.: ²⁵O Covenant LORD, work salvation!

2nd Congr.: O Covenant LORD, let us triumph!

1st Reader: ²⁶Blessed is he who comes
 in the name of the Covenant LORD.

Chorus: We have blessed all of you
 from the house of the Covenant LORD.

All: ²⁷The Covenant LORD alone is God,
 and he has shone on us.

2nd Reader: Bind the festal sacrifice with cords
 to the horns of the altar.

²⁸You are my God,
 and I give you thanks;
You are my God,
 I will extol you.

All: ²⁹Give thanks to the LORD of the Covenant,
 for he is good;
 his covenant love endures forever.

Psalm 126
Rejoicing over Restoration

Rejoicing over Restoration

A song of ascents.

Reader: ¹When the Covenant LORD returned the
captivity of Zion,

Congr.: we thought we must be dreaming.

Reader: ²Then

Congr.: our mouth was filled
 with laughter,
 our tongue
 with singing.

Reader: Then

they said among the nations,

Chorus: ‘The Covenant LORD has done great things
for these people.’

Congr.: ³Indeed, the Covenant LORD has done great things
 for us.

How happy we are!

Reader: ⁴Turn, O Covenant LORD, our captivity
Congr.: as the torrents [rush into] the Negev.

Reader: ⁵They that sow
 in tears

Congr.: shall reap
in joy.

Reader: ⁶The one who goes out weeping,
 bearing seed for scattering,

Congr.: undoubtedly shall come back singing,
bearing his bundles of grain.

Psalm 128

The Happy Hearth

A song of ascents.

Reader: ¹How happy is everyone
 who fears the LORD of the Covenant,
 who walks in his ways!

1st Congr.: ²The fruit of your hard work
 you shall enjoy;

2nd Congr.: blessings and prosperity
 will be yours.

1st Congr.: ³Your wife shall be as a fruitful vine
 encompassing your home;

2nd Congr.: your children as olive shoots
 around your table.

Reader: ⁴Look at him!
 See how the man is blessed
 who fears the Covenant LORD!

⁵May the Covenant LORD bless you
 out of Zion,
 and may you witness
 the good of Jerusalem
 all the days of your life.

⁶May you enjoy your children's children.

All: Peace be on Israel.

Psalm 132

From Cross to Crown

A song of ascents.

1st Reader: ¹Remember, O Covenant LORD,
 David
 and his afflictions.

1st Congr.: ²He swore to the LORD of the Covenant,
2nd Congr.: he vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob:

1st Reader: ³I will not go
 to the tent where I reside;
 I will not stretch out
 on the bed where I recline;
 ⁴I will not allow
 my eyes to slumber
 or my eyelids to sleep
 ⁵until I find
 a place
 for the LORD of the Covenant
 tabernacles
 for the Mighty One of Jacob.'

1st Congr.: ⁶Indeed, we heard of it
 in Ephratah;

2nd Congr.: we discovered it
 in the fields of Jaar.

1st Congr.: ⁷We will go up
 to his tabernacles;

2nd Congr.: we will bow down
 at his footstool.

1st Congr.: ⁸Arise, O Covenant LORD,
 into your resting-place,

2nd Congr.: you
 and the ark of your strength.

1st Congr.: ⁹Your priests
 will be adorned in righteousness,

2nd Congr.: and your devoted ones
will shout for joy.

All: ¹⁰Because of David your servant,
do not turn away the face of your
anointed one.

1st Reader: ¹¹The Covenant LORD swore the truth to David;
He will never turn away from it:

2nd Reader: 'From the fruit of your loins
I will establish heirs to your throne.
¹²If your sons will keep
my covenant,
and my testimony which I teach them,
then their sons will sit on your throne for
ever.'

1st Reader: ¹³For the Covenant LORD has chosen Zion;
he has claimed it for his dwelling-place:

2nd Reader: ¹⁴This is my place of rest forever;
Here I will reside, for I have claimed it.

¹⁵Its provision
I will greatly bless;
its poor
I will satisfy with bread;
¹⁶its priests
I will adorn with salvation;
its devoted ones
will shout for joy continually.

¹⁷There I will make sprout
a horn for David;
I have prepared
a lamp for my anointed one.

¹⁸His enemies
I will cover with shame,
but on him
his crown will glisten.'

Psalm 146
*Praise the Covenant LORD,
Help of the Helpless*

A song of ascents.

Reader: ¹Hallelu Yah!
Praise the LORD of the Covenant, O my soul!

Congr.: ²I will praise the Covenant LORD
 throughout my life;
I will sing to my God
 as long as I live.

Reader: ³Don't any of you put your trust
 in men, however noble;
 in a son of man
 who cannot save.

Congr.: ⁴His life-breath will expire;
he will return to the dust;
in that very day his plans perish.

Reader: ⁵How blessed is the man
 who has the God of Jacob
 as his help;
 his reliance
 is on the Covenant LORD his God.

Congr.: ⁶He made heaven and earth,
 the sea, and everything in them.
He remains faithful forever;
⁷he enacts justice for the oppressed;
he gives bread to the hungry.

Reader: ⁸The LORD of the Covenant looses

Congr.: the prisoners;

Reader: The LORD of the Covenant opens

Congr.: the eyes of the blind;

Reader: The LORD of the Covenant raises

Congr.: the bowed down;

Reader: The LORD of the Covenant loves

Congr.: the righteous;

Reader: ⁹The LORD of the Covenant sustains
Congr.: the sojourners.

Reader: The orphan and the widow
 he will uphold;
Congr.: but the way of the wicked
 he will frustrate.

Reader: ¹⁰The LORD of the Covenant shall reign
 forever;
Congr.: your God, O Zion,
 from generation to generation.

All: Hallelu Yah!