

## PSALM 56

David is praying for deliverance from the oppression of his enemies, who pursue him all day long. But he has a confident trust in God, who will deliver him. We too are pursued by enemies both physical and spiritual, but known unto God are all the afflictions of his servants here on earth, and our tears are precious to him.

**For the choir director; according to Jonath elem rehokim. A Mikhtam of David, when the Philistines seized him in Gath.**

- 1 Be gracious to me, O God, for man has trampled upon me;  
fighting all day long he oppresses me.
- 2 My foes have trampled upon me all day long,  
for they are many who fight proudly against me.
- 3 When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You.
- 4 In God, whose word I praise, in God I have put my trust;  
I shall not be afraid. What can *mere* man do to me?
  
- 5 All day long they distort my words; all their thoughts are against me for evil.
- 6 They attack, they lurk, they watch my steps, as they have waited *to take* my life.
- 7 Because of wickedness, cast them forth, in anger put down the peoples, O God!
  
- 8 You have taken account of my wanderings; put my tears in Your bottle.  
*Are they* not in Your book?
- 9 Then my enemies will turn back in the day when I call; this I know, that God is for me.
- 10 In God, *whose* word I praise, in YAHWEH, *whose* word I praise,
- 11 in God I have put my trust, I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me?
- 12 Your vows are *binding* upon me, O God; I will render thank offerings to You.
- 13 For You have delivered my soul from death, indeed my feet from stumbling,  
so that I may walk before God in the light of the living.

### PRAYER

*Lord God, we have put our trust in you, for we have no power of our own to defend against adversaries and adversities--no power to overcome the assaults of Satan, the world, the flesh We are set in the midst of many and great dangers. Mercifully grant the assistance of your Holy Spirit, and let him be a spirit of sanctification, of counsel and comfort to inspire us with patience. Give us courage and a steadfast repose in your care and providence at all times, and most especially in the hour of death. And may we walk the straight and narrow path with a never-failing hope in the glorious appearance of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.*