

## *PSALM 5*

This psalm was written at a time when David was persecuted by his political enemies. It must always be recalled that it was God who appointed David to be king over Israel, and that those who opposed him did, in fact, set themselves against the divine will. David's enemies, therefore, were God's enemies; and as such, he prays to the Lord for their punishment. Leupold writes that we need "to catch the spirit of Old Testament writers generally on this subject, namely, the spirit which feels God's will in this matter very keenly and prays that God may act in conformity with his holy will. Indeed, there can be no doubt about it that it is the good and perfect will of God utterly to overthrow the stubbornly impenitent; and it was just this latter class of men against whom prayers of this sort are directed." So David prays, "Make them bear their guilt, O God; let them fall by their own counsels" (verse 10). The depravity of mankind, Jews as well as Gentiles, is strongly pictured in the 9th and 10th verses. The Apostle Paul describes the natural depravity of the heart of man in the third chapter of his epistle to the Romans. Let us direct our attention to the beginning and ending of this psalm: "Let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy" (verse 11). May we also pray with sincerity and fervor in the humble hope that our prayers will ascend to the throne of grace as an acceptable service to the God of all grace.

### **For the choir director; for flute accompaniment. A Psalm of David.**

- 1 Give ear to my words, O YAHWEH; consider my groaning.
- 2 Give attention to the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for to you do I pray.
- 3 O YAHWEH, in the morning you hear my voice; in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch.
  
- 4 For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with you.
- 5 The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers.
- 6 You destroy those who speak lies; YAHWEH abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.
  
- 7 But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house.  
I will bow down toward your holy temple in the fear of you.
- 8 Lead me, O YAHWEH, in your righteousness because of my enemies;  
make your way straight before me.
  
- 9 For there is no truth in their mouth; their inmost self is destruction;  
their throat is an open grave; they flatter with their tongue.
- 10 Make them bear their guilt, O God; let them fall by their own counsels;  
because of the abundance of their transgressions cast them out,  
for they have rebelled against you.

- 11 But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy, and spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may exult in you.
- 12 For you bless the righteous, O YAHWEH; you cover him with favor as with a shield.

#### PRAYER

*Most holy Lord God, though you take no pleasure in wickedness, neither permit evil to come into your presence, yet you are always more ready to hear us than we are to pray, and ready to give more than we desire or deserve. Keep us under the protection of your good providence, and give us such a perpetual fear and love of your holy name as may defend us from the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil. Make us thankful for your great mercy toward us in Christ Jesus, and for the blessing we enjoy in the possession of your holy word. Sanctify this treasure to us, and grant that we may hear, read, learn, and inwardly digest it in order to bring forth the fruit of righteousness. And may we have such comforting assurance of our heavenly calling that, when it shall please you to take us hence, we may look forward without dismay to that great account we must one day render. May we be made partakers of everlasting glory in the life to come through the merits and for the sake of our blessed Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.*