

PSALM 63

In the wilderness we find David thirsting for his God with the same eagerness that a thirsty person longs for water to drink. The praise of God was as marrow and fatness to his soul, and to remember God in the night-watches was his delight. Let us ask ourselves, how do we feel when contemplating the mercies of our redemption? Does it rejoice us to meditate on a future life, or are we incessantly thinking about the perishing concerns of this present world?

A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah.

- 1 O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly;
my soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You,
in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
- 2 Thus I have seen You in the sanctuary, to see Your power and Your glory.
- 3 Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, my lips will praise You.
- 4 So I will bless You as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name.
- 5 My soul is satisfied as with marrow and fatness,
and my mouth offers praises with joyful lips.

- 6 When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches,
- 7 for You have been my help, and in the shadow of Your wings I sing for joy.
- 8 My soul clings to You; Your right hand upholds me.

- 9 But those who seek my life to destroy it, will go into the depths of the earth.
- 10 They will be delivered over to the power of the sword; they will be a prey for foxes.
- 11 But the king will rejoice in God; everyone who swears by Him will glory,
for the mouths of those who speak lies will be stopped.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, to know you is the supreme happiness of a rational creature. Fix our thoughts, hopes, and desires upon heaven and heavenly things. Let us remember you with deep gratitude when we lie down in our beds for the night, and may we devote to you our first thoughts upon arising in the morning. Fortify our minds with power to resist those sins and follies which most easily beset us, keep us from the pursuit of temporal delights which divert us from serious thoughts of the life to come, and grant that our longing for spiritual advancement may daily become more vivid, until that hour when you are pleased to call us home.