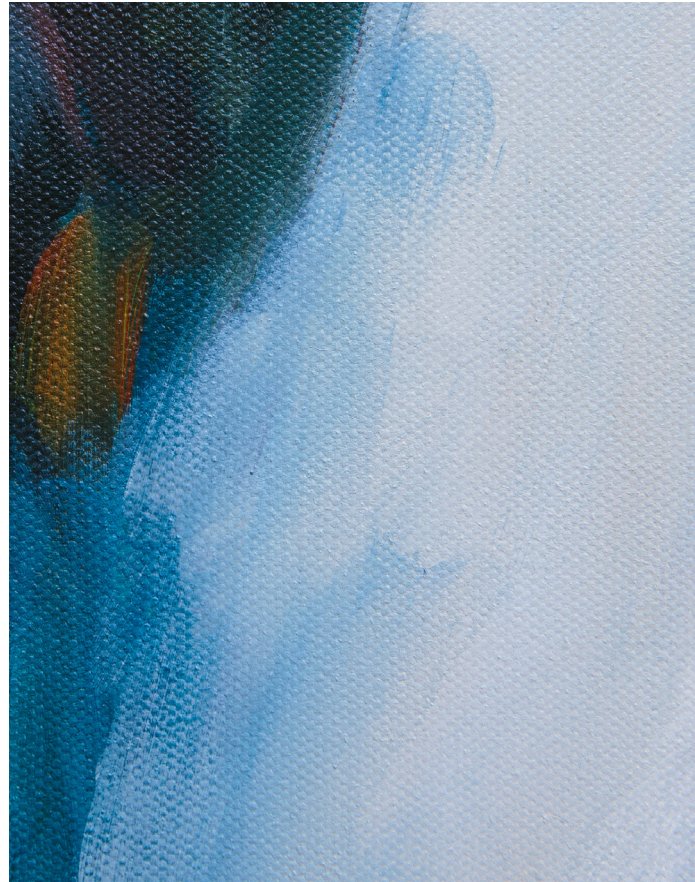


# 1



- <sup>1</sup> Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers.
- <sup>2</sup> But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night.
- <sup>3</sup> They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.
- <sup>4</sup> But not the wicked! They are like worthless chaff, scattered by the wind.
- <sup>5</sup> They will be condemned at the time of judgment. Sinners will have no place among the godly.
- <sup>6</sup> For the Lord watches over the path of the godly, but the path of the wicked leads to destruction.

# 2

- <sup>1</sup> Why are the nations so angry?  
Why do they waste their time with futile plans?
- <sup>2</sup> The kings of the earth prepare for battle;  
the rulers plot together  
against the Lord  
and against his anointed one.
- <sup>3</sup> “Let us break their chains,” they cry,  
“and free ourselves from slavery to God.”
- <sup>4</sup> But the one who rules in heaven laughs.  
The Lord scoffs at them.
- <sup>5</sup> Then in anger he rebukes them,  
terrifying them with his fierce fury.
- <sup>6</sup> For the Lord declares,  
“I have placed my chosen king on the throne  
in Jerusalem, on my holy mountain.”
- <sup>7</sup> The king proclaims the Lord’s decree:  
“The Lord said to me, ‘You are my son.  
Today I have become your Father.
- <sup>8</sup> Only ask, and I will give you  
the nations as your inheritance,  
the whole earth as your possession.
- <sup>9</sup> You will break them with an iron rod  
and smash them like clay pots.”
- <sup>10</sup> Now then, you kings, act wisely!  
Be warned, you rulers of the earth!
- <sup>11</sup> Serve the Lord with reverent fear,  
and rejoice with trembling.
- <sup>12</sup> Submit to God’s royal son,  
or he will become angry,  
and you will be destroyed  
in the midst of all your activities—  
for his anger flares up in an instant.  
But what joy for all who take refuge in him!



# 3

*A psalm of David, regarding the time David fled from his son Absalom.*

- <sup>1</sup> O Lord, I have so many enemies;  
so many are against me.
- <sup>2</sup> So many are saying,  
“God will never rescue him!”
- Interlude*
- <sup>3</sup> But you, O Lord, are a shield around me;  
you are my glory,  
the one who holds my head high.
- <sup>4</sup> I cried out to the Lord,  
and he answered me from his holy mountain.
- Interlude*
- <sup>5</sup> I lay down and slept,  
yet I woke up in safety,  
for the Lord was watching over me.
- <sup>6</sup> I am not afraid of ten thousand enemies  
who surround me on every side.
- <sup>7</sup> Arise, O Lord!  
Rescue me, my God!  
Slap all my enemies in the face!  
Shatter the teeth of the wicked!
- <sup>8</sup> Victory comes from you, O Lord.  
May you bless your people.

*Interlude*

# 4

*For the choir director: A psalm of David,  
to be accompanied by stringed instruments.*

- <sup>1</sup> Answer me when I call to you,  
O God who declares me innocent.  
Free me from my troubles.  
Have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- <sup>2</sup> How long will you people ruin my reputation?  
How long will you make groundless accusations?  
How long will you continue your lies?
- Interlude*
- <sup>3</sup> You can be sure of this:  
The Lord set apart the godly for himself.  
The Lord will answer when I call to him.
- <sup>4</sup> Don't sin by letting anger control you.  
Think about it overnight and remain silent.
- Interlude*
- <sup>5</sup> Offer sacrifices in the right spirit,  
and trust the Lord.
- <sup>6</sup> Many people say, “Who will show us better times?”  
Let your face smile on us, Lord.
- <sup>7</sup> You have given me greater joy  
than those who have abundant harvests of  
grain and new wine.
- <sup>8</sup> In peace I will lie down and sleep,  
for you alone, O Lord, will keep me safe.





## 5

*For the choir director: A psalm of David, to be accompanied by the flute.*

- <sup>1</sup> O Lord, hear me as I pray;  
pay attention to my groaning.
- <sup>2</sup> Listen to my cry for help,  
my King and my God,  
for I pray to no one but you.
- <sup>3</sup> Listen to my voice in the morning, Lord.  
Each morning I bring my requests to you and  
wait expectantly.
- <sup>4</sup> O God, you take no pleasure in wickedness;  
you cannot tolerate the sins of the wicked.
- <sup>5</sup> Therefore, the proud may not  
stand in your presence,  
for you hate all who do evil.
- <sup>6</sup> You will destroy those who tell lies.  
The Lord detests murderers and deceivers.
- <sup>7</sup> Because of your unfailing love,  
I can enter your house;  
I will worship at your Temple with deepest awe.
- <sup>8</sup> Lead me in the right path, O Lord,  
or my enemies will conquer me.  
Make your way plain for me to follow.
- <sup>9</sup> My enemies cannot speak a truthful word.  
Their deepest desire is to destroy others.  
Their talk is foul,  
like the stench from an open grave.  
Their tongues are filled with flattery.
- <sup>10</sup> O God, declare them guilty.  
Let them be caught in their own traps.  
Drive them away because of their many sins,  
for they have rebelled against you.

- <sup>11</sup> But let all who take refuge in you rejoice;  
let them sing joyful praises forever.  
Spread your protection over them,  
that all who love your name  
may be filled with joy.
- <sup>12</sup> For you bless the godly, O Lord;  
you surround them with your shield of love.

## 6

*For the choir director: A psalm of David, to be accompanied by an eight-stringed instrument.*

- <sup>1</sup> O Lord, don't rebuke me in your anger  
or discipline me in your rage.
- <sup>2</sup> Have compassion on me, Lord, for I am weak.  
Heal me, Lord, for my bones are in agony.
- <sup>3</sup> I am sick at heart.  
How long, O Lord, until you restore me?
- <sup>4</sup> Return, O Lord, and rescue me.  
Save me because of your unfailing love.
- <sup>5</sup> For the dead do not remember you.  
Who can praise you from the grave?
- <sup>6</sup> I am worn out from sobbing.  
All night I flood my bed with weeping,  
drenching it with my tears.
- <sup>7</sup> My vision is blurred by grief;  
my eyes are worn out because of all my enemies.
- <sup>8</sup> Go away, all you who do evil,  
for the Lord has heard my weeping.
- <sup>9</sup> The Lord has heard my plea;  
the Lord will answer my prayer.
- <sup>10</sup> May all my enemies be disgraced and terrified.  
May they suddenly turn back in shame.

# 7

*A psalm of David, which he sang to the Lord  
concerning Cush of the tribe of Benjamin.*

<sup>1</sup> I come to you for protection, O Lord my God.  
Save me from my persecutors—rescue me!  
<sup>2</sup> If you don't, they will maul me like a lion,  
tearing me to pieces with no one to rescue me.  
<sup>3</sup> O Lord my God, if I have done wrong  
or am guilty of injustice,  
<sup>4</sup> if I have betrayed a friend  
or plundered my enemy without cause,  
<sup>5</sup> then let my enemies capture me.  
Let them trample me into the ground  
and drag my honor in the dust.

*Interlude*

<sup>6</sup> Arise, O Lord, in anger!  
Stand up against the fury of my enemies!  
Wake up, my God, and bring justice!  
<sup>7</sup> Gather the nations before you.  
Rule over them from on high.  
<sup>8</sup> The Lord judges the nations.  
Declare me righteous, O Lord,  
for I am innocent, O Most High!  
<sup>9</sup> End the evil of those who are wicked,  
and defend the righteous.  
For you look deep within the mind and heart,

O righteous God.  
<sup>10</sup> God is my shield,  
saving those whose hearts  
are true and right.  
<sup>11</sup> God is an honest judge.  
He is angry with the wicked every day.  
<sup>12</sup> If a person does not repent,  
God will sharpen his sword;  
he will bend and string his bow.  
<sup>13</sup> He will prepare his deadly weapons  
and shoot his flaming arrows.  
<sup>14</sup> The wicked conceive evil;  
they are pregnant with trouble  
and give birth to lies.  
<sup>15</sup> They dig a deep pit to trap others,  
then fall into it themselves.  
<sup>16</sup> The trouble they make for others  
backfires on them.  
The violence they plan  
falls on their own heads.  
<sup>17</sup> I will thank the Lord because he is just;  
I will sing praise to the name of  
the Lord Most High.

