

I think of the days of old,—the years of ancient times.

I call to remembrance my songs in the night ; I meditate in my heart, and my spirit inquireth : Will the Lord be angry forever ? will He be favorable no more ?

Is His mercy utterly withdrawn for ever ? doth His promise fail from generation to generation ? Hath God forgotten to be gracious ? Hath He in anger shut up His compassion ?

Then I say, 'This is my affliction, a change in the right hand of the Most High.'

I remember the deeds of the Lord, I think of Thy wonders of old. I meditate on all Thy works, and talk of Thy doings.

Thy ways, O God ! are holy ! who is so great as our God ?

When my spirit is overwhelmed within me, Thou knowest my path !

I cry unto Thee, O Lord ! I say, Thou art my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.

Attend to my cry, for I am brought very low ; deliver me from my persecutors, for they prevail against me !

Bring me out of prison, that I may praise Thy name ! the righteous shall gather around me, when Thou shalt show me Thy favor.

---

*XXXVIII. National Calamity.*

PSALMS 80 and 60.

*M.* Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel ! Thou who leadest Joseph like a flock, Thou who dwellest above the cherubims, shine forth !

- C. Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up Thy strength, and come and save us !  
Bring us back to Thee, O God ! and cause thy face to shine upon us, that we may be saved !  
O Lord, God of hosts ! how long wilt Thou be angry against the prayer of Thy people ?  
For Thou causest them to eat the bread of sorrow, and givest them tears to drink, in full measure.  
Bring us back to Thee, O God of hosts ! and cause thy face to shine upon us that we may be saved !  
Thou didst bring a vine out of Egypt ; Thou didst expel the nations, and plant it.  
Thou didst prepare a place for it ; it spread its roots, and filled the land.  
The mountains were covered with its shade, and its branches were like the cedars of God.  
It sent out its boughs to the sea, and its branches to the river.  
O God of hosts ! return we beseech Thee, look down from heaven, and behold, and have regard to this vine !  
Protect what Thy right hand planted ; the branch which Thou madest strong for Thyself !  
It is burnt with fire ; it is cut down ; under Thy rebuke they perish.  
O God ! Thou hast been angry ! O revive us again !  
Thou hast caused Thy people to see hard things ;  
Thou hast made us drink the wine of reeling.  
Lift up a banner for them that fear Thee, for the sake of Thy faithfulness, that they may escape !  
That Thy beloved may be delivered, save with Thy right hand, and answer me !

God promiseth in his holiness ; I will rejoice.  
 Bring us back unto Thee, O Lord, God of hosts !  
 and cause Thy face to shine upon us, that we  
 may be saved !

---

CONSOLATION.

*XXXIX. Joy Cometh.*

PSALM 30, 126.

- M.* I will extol Thee, O Lord ! for Thou hast lifted me  
 up, and hast not suffered my enemies to rejoice  
 over me.
- C.* O Lord, my God ! I called upon Thee, and Thou  
 hast healed me !  
 O Lord ! Thou hast raised me up from destruction.  
 Thou hast kept me alive, that I should not go  
 down to the grave !  
 Sing unto the Lord, O ye His servants ! and praise  
 His holy name !  
 For His anger endureth but a moment, but His  
 favor through life ;  
 Though in the evening sorrow be a guest, yet joy  
 cometh in the morning.  
 Thou, O Lord ! by Thy favor, hast made my mount-  
 ain strong ; Thou didst hide Thy face, and I  
 was troubled !  
 I cried unto Thee, O Lord ! to the Lord I made  
 supplication :  
 Hear, O Lord ! and have pity upon me ! be Thou,  
 O Lord, my helper !  
 Thou didst turn my mourning into joy ; Thou didst  
 loose my sackcloth, and gird me with gladness.

Therefore I will sing praise to Thee, and not be silent ; O Lord my God ! I will give thanks to Thee for ever !

When the Lord brought back the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing.

Then said they among the nations, The Lord hath done great things for them !

Yea, the Lord hath done great things for us, for which we are glad.

They who sow in tears shall reap in joy.

Yea, he goeth forth weeping, bearing his seed ; he shall surely come back rejoicing, bringing his sheaves in his harvest.

---

*XL. God Our Comforter.*

PSALM 86.

*M.* Incline Thy ear, O Lord ! and hear me, for I am poor and distressed !

*C.* Preserve my life, for I am devoted to Thee ! save, O Thou my God ! Thy servant who trusteth in Thee !

Have pity upon me, O Lord ! for to Thee do I cry daily !

Revive the soul of Thy servant, for to Thee, O Lord ! do I lift up my soul !

For Thou O Lord, art good, and ready to forgive ; yea, rich in mercy to all that call upon Thee !

Give ear, O Lord ! to my prayer, and attend to the voice of my supplication !

In the day of my trouble I call upon Thee, for Thou dost answer me !

Among the mighty there is none like Thee, O  
 Lord ! and there are no works like Thy works !  
 All the nations which Thou hast made must come  
 and worship before Thee, O Lord ! and glorify  
 Thy name !

For great art Thou, and wondrous are Thy works ;  
 thou alone art God !

Teach me, O Lord ! Thy way, that I may walk in  
 Thy truth ; unite all my heart to fear Thy  
 name !

I will praise Thee, O Lord, my God ! with my  
 whole heart ; I will give glory to Thy name for  
 ever !

For Thy kindness to me hath been great ; Thou hast  
 delivered me from the depths of the underworld !  
 O God ! the proud have risen against me ; bands of  
 cruel men seek my life, and set not Thee before  
 their eyes.

But Thou, O Lord ! art a God full of compassion  
 and kindness, long-suffering, rich in mercy  
 and truth !

Look upon me, and have compassion upon me !  
 give Thy strength to Thy servant,  
 Show me a token for good ; because Thou, O Lord !  
 helpest and comfortest me !

---

*XLI. The Tender Mercies of God.*

PSALM 40.

- M.* I trusted steadfastly in the Lord, and He listened,  
 and heard my cry,  
*C.* He drew me out of a horrible pit, out of the miry  
 clay ; He set my feet upon a rock, and made  
 my steps firm.

He hath put into my mouth a new song, a song  
of praise to our God.

Many shall see, and fear, and put their trust in the  
Lord.

Happy the man who maketh the Lord his trust, and  
resorteth not to men of pride and falsehood!

Many, O Lord, my God! are the wonderful works  
which Thou hast done;

Many have been Thy gracious purposes towards  
us; none can be compared to Thee!

Would I declare and rehearse them, they are more  
than can be numbered.

In sacrifice and oblation Thou hast no pleasure;  
my ears Thou hast opened; burnt-offering and  
sin-offering thou requirest not.

Therefore I said, Lo, I come; in the scroll of the  
book it is prescribed to me;

O my God! to do Thy will is my delight, and Thy  
law dwelleth in my heart!

I have proclaimed Thy righteousness in the great  
assembly, lo, I have not restrained my lips, O  
Lord! Thou knowest!

I hide not Thy justice in my heart; I declare Thy  
faithfulness and Thy salvation; I conceal not  
Thy mercy and truth from the great assembly.

Withdraw not from me Thy tender mercies, O  
Lord! may Thy lovingkindness and Thy  
truth continually preserve me!

I am poor and afflicted, yet the Lord thinketh of  
me; Thou, O God, art my help and my  
deliverer.

Let all who seek Thee be glad and rejoice in Thee!  
let those who love Thy protection ever say,  
Great is the Eternal!