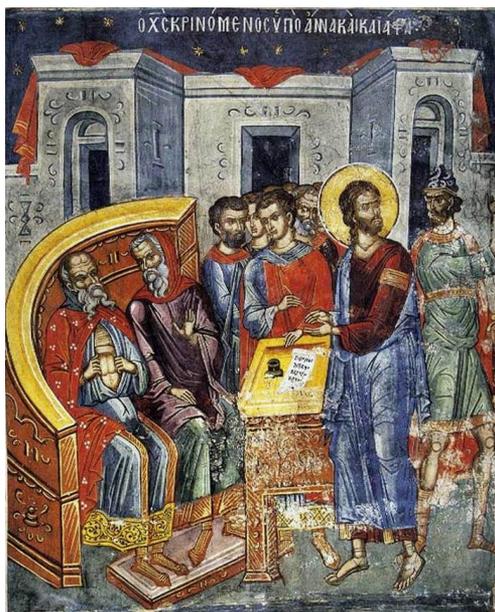


Lent Midweek Vespers

Up to Jerusalem: The Psalms of Ascent—Psalm 122



March 18, 2020

The Psalms of Ascent

Psalms 120–134 all begin with the title “A Song of Ascents.” Some of these were written by David and one was written by Solomon. Most of these 15 psalms are anonymous. Some of these psalms were likely written as the Judeans returned home after exile in Babylon. Others were probably written to be sung as Israelite pilgrims journeyed to Jerusalem for the three great pilgrimage festivals of Passover, Weeks, and Tabernacles. Since Jerusalem sits on an elevated place, no matter the direction of approach, you always “go up” to Jerusalem. Today the Hebrew term for moving to Israel is still *aliyah*, “going up.” Whatever the occasion of God inspiring them to be written, they are the songs of travel for God’s people. We use the first five of the Psalms of Ascent to accompany us on our Lenten journey, following our Lord on His own journey “up” to the cross.

The Office of Vespers

†-- congregation stands

Hymn 883 *All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night*

† Opening Versicles p. 229

† Psalm 122



I was glad when they | said to me,*
“Let us go to the house | of the LORD!”

**Our feet have been | standing*
within your gates, O Je- | rusalem!**

Jerusalem—built as a | city*
that is bound firmly to- | gether,

**to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,
as was decreed for | Israel,*
to give thanks to the name | of the LORD.**

There thrones for judg- | ment were set,*
the thrones of the house of | David.

**Pray for the peace of Je- | rusalem!*
“May they be secure who | love you!**

Peace be with- | in your walls*
and security within your | towers!”

**For my brothers and com- | panions’ sake*
I will say, “Peace be with- | in you!”**

For the sake of the house of the | LORD our God,*
I will | seek your good.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

I was glad when they | said to me,*
“Let us go to the house | of the LORD!”

His splendor covered the | heavens,*
and the earth was full | of His praise.

His brightness was like the light; rays flashed | from His hand;*
and there He | veiled His pow'r.
Before Him went | pestilence,*
and plague followed | at His heels.

He stood and mea- | sured the earth;*
He looked and shook the | nations;
then the eternal mountains were scattered;
the everlasting hills | sank low.*
His were the ever- | lasting ways. *Refrain*

You went out for the salvation of Your | people,*
for the salvation of Your A- | nointed.
You crushed the head of the house of the | wicked,*
laying him bare from | thigh to neck.

Yet I will rejoice | in the Lord;*
I will take joy in the God of my sal- | vation.
God, the Lord, is my strength;
He makes my feet | like the deer's;*
He makes me tread on my high | places.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen. *Refrain*

† Prayers p. 233 ff.

Hymn 422 *On My Heart Imprint Your Image*

Offerings may be placed in the plate in the narthex.

