

2024-12-28 Meditation for the Fourth Day in the Octave of Christmas is now available at: <https://pgimf.org/meditations/>

Theme song (7th-century hymn):

Creator of the stars of night
Your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer of us all,
We pray you hear us when we call

In sorrow that the ancient curse
Should doom to death a universe

Psalm 73

Lyrics Translated by Myles Coverdale (1488-1569)

Music: Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879)

Artists: The Choir of Lincoln Cathedral, Colin Walsh (organ), Aric Prentice (dir.)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QhYPzNxWMdY>

Book III:

Quam bonus Israel

[Full choir]

TRULY God is loving unto Israel: * even unto such as are of a clean heart.

[God is loving, but . . . I began to have my doubts.]

2 Nevertheless, my feet were almost gone, * my treadings had well-nigh
slipt.

[The two sides of the choir alternate verses]

3 And why? I was grieved at the wicked: * I do also see the ungodly in such
prosperity.

[A long list of how wrong doers get ahead.]

4 For they are in no peril of death; * but are lusty and strong.

5 They come in no misfortune like other folk; * neither are they plagued like
other men.

6 And this is the cause that they are so holden with pride, * and
overwhelmed with cruelty.

7 Their eyes swell with fatness, * and they do even what they lust.

8 They corrupt other and speak of wicked blasphemy; * their talking is
against the Most High.

9 For they stretch forth their mouth unto the heaven, * and their tongue
goeth through the world.

10 Therefore fall the people unto them, * and thereout suck they no small
advantage.

11 Tush, say they, how should God perceive it? * is there knowledge in the
Most High.

12 Lo, these are the ungodly, * these prosper in the world, and these have
riches in possession:

13 And I said, Then have I cleansed my heart in vain, * and washed my²
hands in innocency.

14 All the day long have I been punished, * and chastened every morning.

15 Yea, and I had almost said even as they; * but lo, then I should have
condemned the generation of thy children.

16 Then thought I to understand this; * but it was too hard for me,

17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God: * then understood I the end of
these men.

[Full choir]

18 Namely, how thou dost set them in slippery places, * and castest them
down, and destroyest them.

[The two sides of the choir alternate verses]

19 O how suddenly do they consume, * perish, and come to a fearful end!

20 Yea, even like as a dream when one awaketh; * so shalt thou make their
image to vanish out of the city.

21 Thus my heart was grieved, * and it went even through my reins.

22 So foolish was I, and ignorant, * even as it were a beast before thee.

[New music, reflecting that the psalmist is resolved to remain steadfast. Full choir.]

23 Nevertheless, I am alway by thee; * for thou hast holden me by my right
hand.

24 Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, * and after that receive me with
glory.

[The two sides of the choir alternate verses]

25 Whom have I in heaven but thee? * and there is none upon earth that I
desire in comparison of thee.

26 My flesh and my heart faileth; * but God is the strength of my heart, and
my portion for ever.

[Full choir]

27 For lo, they that forsake thee shall perish; * thou hast destroyed all them
that are unfaithful unto thee.

28 But it is good for me to hold me fast by God, to put my trust in the Lord
GOD, * and to speak of all thy works in the gates of the daughter of Sion.

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost :
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Evan
j.evan.kreider@ubc.ca