

2025-01-04 Meditation for Saturday of Christmastide is now available at: <https://pgimf.org/meditations/>

Theme song (7<sup>th</sup>-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 74

Lyrics Translated by Myles Coverdale (1488-1569)

Music: Lindsay Gray (b. 1953)

Artists: The Choir of Lincoln Cathedral, Colin Walsh (organ), Aric Prentice (dir.)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4q4LDPNzByM>

*Ut quid, Deus?*

[Full choir]

0 GOD, wherefore art thou absent from us so long? \* why is thy wrath so hot  
against the sheep of thy pasture?

2 O think upon thy congregation, \* whom thou hast purchased, and  
redeemed of old.

[The two sides of the choir alternate verses.]

3 Think upon the tribe of thine inheritance, \* and Mount Sion, wherein thou  
hast dwelt.

4 Lift up thy feet, that thou mayest utterly destroy every enemy, \* which  
hath done evil in thy sanctuary.

5 Thine adversaries roar in the midst of thy congregations, \* and set up their  
banners [enemy flags in the temple] for tokens.

6 He that hewed timber afore out of the thick trees, \* was known to bring it  
to an excellent work.

[The beautifully carved temple is destroyed.]

7 But now they break down all the carved work thereof \* with axes and  
hammers.

8 They have set fire upon thy holy places, \* and have defiled the dwelling-  
place of thy Name, even unto the ground.

9 Yea, they said in their hearts, Let us make havoc of them altogether: \* thus have they burnt up all the houses of God in the land.

[Without prophets, how will they ever hear from God again?]

10 We see not our tokens; there is not one prophet more; \* no, not one is there among us, that understandeth any more.

11 O God, how long shall the adversary do this dishonour? \* how long shall the enemy blaspheme thy Name? for ever?

12 Why withdrawest thou thy hand? \* why pluckest thou not thy right hand out of thy bosom to consume the enemy?

[New music is sung for these words about Creation's account of God making things anew: water, land, day and night, seasons. Full choir.]

13 For God is my King of old; \* the help that is done upon earth, he doeth it himself.

14 Thou didst divide the sea through thy power; \* thou brakest the heads of the dragons in the waters.

[The two sides of the choir alternate verses.]

15 Thou smotest the heads of leviathan in pieces, \* and gavest him to be meat for the people of the wilderness.

16 Thou broughtest out fountains and waters out of the hard rocks; \* thou driedst up mighty waters.

17 The day is thine, and the night is thine; \* thou hast prepared the light and the sun.

18 Thou hast set all the borders of the earth; \* thou hast made summer and winter.

[We return to the music heard in the beginning as we return to lamenting the temple and asking that God redeem and create a new Israel.]

19 Remember this, O LORD, how the enemy hath rebuked; \* and how the foolish people hath blasphemed thy Name.

20 O deliver not the soul of thy turtle-dove unto the multitude of the enemies; \* and forget not the congregation of the poor for ever.

21 Look upon the covenant; \* for all the earth is full of darkness and cruel habitations.

22 O let not the simple go away ashamed; \* but let the poor and needy give praise unto thy Name.

[Full choir]

23 Arise, O God, maintain thine own cause; \* remember how the foolish man blasphemeth thee daily.

24 Forget not the voice of thine enemies: \* the presumption of them that hate thee increaseth ever more and more.

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  
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