

2025-12-06 Meditation for Saturday in the First Week of Advent 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 81

Lyrics: Translated by Myles Coverdale (1488-1569)

Music: Sir George Job Elvey (1816-1893) and William Ellis (1868-1947)

Artists: The Choir of Lincoln Cathedral, Colin Walsh (organ), Aric Prentice (dir.)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5sccr2yQIJA>

Exultate Deo

[Full choir: words of praise]

SING we merrily unto God our strength; * make a cheerful noise unto the God of Jacob.

2 Take the psalm, bring hither the tabret, * the merry harp with the lute.

[Now the two sides of the choir sing alternate verses.]

3 Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, * even in the time appointed, and upon our solemn feast-day.

4 For this was made a statute for Israel, * and a law of the God of Jacob.

5 This he ordained in Joseph for a testimony, * when he came out of the land of Egypt, and had heard a strange language.

[God now recalls how Joseph and then Israel was supported; full choir]

6 I eased his shoulder from the burden, * and his hands were delivered from making the pots.

7 Thou calledst upon me in troubles, and I delivered thee; * and heard thee what time as the storm fell upon thee.

8 I proved thee also * at the waters of strife.

[God renews past promises; the two sides of the choir again alternate verses.]

9 Hear, O my people; and I will assure thee, O Israel, * if thou wilt hearken unto me,

10 There shall no strange god be in thee, * neither shalt thou worship any other god.

[Full choir]

11 I am the LORD thy God, who brought thee out of the land of Egypt: * open thy mouth wide, and I shall fill it.

[Music changes, showing God's sorrow when rejected.]

12 But my people would not hear my voice; * and Israel would not obey me;

13 So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lusts, * and let them follow their own imaginations.

[God wishes Israel would have followed him; the two sides of the choir alternate verses.]

14 O that my people would have hearkened unto me! * for if Israel had walked in my ways,

15 I should soon have put down their enemies, * and turned my hand against their adversaries.

[The psalmist concludes with poignant regret that Israel has not heard God's voice; full choir.]

16 The haters of the LORD should have been found liars; * but their time should have endured for ever.

17 He should have fed them also with the finest wheat-flour; * and with honey out of the stony rock would I have satisfied thee.

[Both sides sing together]

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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