

## Laments for Virginia Tech

### Psalm 55: 1-8, 16-19

*Complaint about a Friend's Treachery*

*To the leader: with stringed instruments. A Maskil of David.*

Give ear to my prayer, O God;  
do not hide yourself from my supplication.  
Attend to me, and answer me;  
I am troubled in my complaint.  
I am distraught by the noise of the enemy,  
because of the clamour of the wicked.  
For they bring trouble upon me,  
and in anger they cherish enmity against me.

My heart is in anguish within me,  
the terrors of death have fallen upon me.  
Fear and trembling come upon me,  
and horror overwhelms me.  
And I say, 'O that I had wings like a dove!  
I would fly away and be at rest;  
truly, I would flee far away;  
I would lodge in the wilderness;  
*Selah*  
I would hurry to find a shelter for myself  
from the raging wind and tempest.'

But I call upon God,  
and the LORD will save me.  
Evening and morning and at noon  
I utter my complaint and moan,  
and God will hear my voice.

God will redeem me unharmed  
from the battle that I wage,  
for many are arrayed against me.  
God, who is enthroned from of old,  
*Selah*  
will hear, and will humble them—  
because they do not change,  
and do not fear God.

### Lamentations 3: 1-3, 7-9, 16-24

*God's Steadfast Love Endures*

I am one who has seen affliction  
under the rod of God's wrath;  
God has driven and brought me  
into night without any light;  
against me alone God turns a hand,  
again and again, all day long.

God has walled me about so that I cannot escape,  
and has put heavy chains on me;  
though I call and cry for help,  
God shuts out my prayer;  
God has blocked my ways with hewn stones,  
and has made my paths crooked.

God has made my teeth grind on gravel,  
and made me cower in ashes;  
my soul is bereft of peace;  
I have forgotten what happiness is;

so I say, 'Gone is my glory,  
and all that I had hoped for from the LORD.'

The thought of my affliction and my homelessness  
is wormwood and gall!  
My soul continually thinks of it  
and is bowed down within me.  
But this I call to mind,  
and therefore I have hope:

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,  
God's mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.  
'The LORD is my portion,' says my soul,  
'therefore I will hope in God.'

**Psalm 88: 1-12**

*Prayer for Help in Despondency*  
*A Song. A Psalm of the Korahites. To the leader: according to*  
*Mahalath Leannoth. A Maskil of Heman the Ezrahite.*

O LORD, God of my salvation,  
when, at night, I cry out in your presence,  
let my prayer come before you;  
incline your ear to my cry.

For my soul is full of troubles,  
and my life draws near to Sheol.  
I am counted among those who go down to the Pit;  
I am like those who have no help,  
like those forsaken among the dead,

like the slain that lie in the grave,  
like those whom you remember no more,  
for they are cut off from your hand.  
You have put me in the depths of the Pit,  
in the regions dark and deep.  
Your wrath lies heavy upon me,  
and you overwhelm me with all your waves.  
*Selah*

You have caused my companions to shun me;  
you have made me a thing of horror to them.  
I am shut in so that I cannot escape;  
my eye grows dim through sorrow.  
Every day I call on you, O LORD;  
I spread out my hands to you.  
Do you work wonders for the dead?  
Do the shades rise up to praise you?  
*Selah*

Is your steadfast love declared in the grave,  
or your faithfulness in Abaddon?  
Are your wonders known in the night,  
or your saving help in the land of forgetfulness?

**Psalm 143: 1-10**

*Prayer for Deliverance from Enemies*  
*A Psalm of David.*

Hear my prayer, O LORD;  
give ear to my supplications in your faithfulness;  
answer me in your righteousness.  
Do not enter into judgment with your servant,  
for no one living is righteous before you.

For the enemy has pursued me,  
crushing my life to the ground,  
making me sit in shadows like those long dead.  
Therefore my spirit faints within me;  
my heart within me is appalled.

I remember the days of old,  
I think about all your deeds,  
I meditate on the works of your hands.  
I stretch out my hands to you;  
my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.  
*Selah*

Answer me quickly, O LORD;  
my spirit fails.  
Do not hide your face from me,  
or I shall be like those who go down to the Pit.  
Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning,  
for in you I put my trust.  
Teach me the way I should go,  
for to you I lift up my soul.

Save me, O LORD, from my enemies;  
I have fled to you for refuge.  
Teach me to do your will,  
for you are my God.  
Let your good spirit lead me  
on a level path.