**Psalm 140-143**

Psalm 140

**For the director of music. A psalm of David.**

**1**Rescue me, Lord, from evildoers;  
    protect me from the violent,  
**2**who devise evil plans in their hearts  
    and stir up war every day.  
**3**They make their tongues as sharp as a serpent’s;  
    the poison of vipers is on their lips.

**4**Keep me safe, Lord, from the hands of the wicked;  
    protect me from the violent,  
    who devise ways to trip my feet.  
**5**The arrogant have hidden a snare for me;  
    they have spread out the cords of their net  
    and have set traps for me along my path.

**6**I say to the Lord, “You are my God.”  
    Hear, Lord, my cry for mercy.  
**7**Sovereign Lord, my strong deliverer,  
    you shield my head in the day of battle.  
**8**Do not grant the wicked their desires, Lord;  
    do not let their plans succeed.

**9**Those who surround me proudly rear their heads;  
    may the mischief of their lips engulf them.  
**10**May burning coals fall on them;  
    may they be thrown into the fire,  
    into miry pits, never to rise.  
**11**May slanderers not be established in the land;  
    may disaster hunt down the violent.

**12**I know that the Lord secures justice for the poor  
    and upholds the cause of the needy.  
**13**Surely the righteous will praise your name,  
    and the upright will live in your presence.

Psalm 141

**A psalm of David.**

**1**I call to you, Lord, come quickly to me;  
    hear me when I call to you.  
**2**May my prayer be set before you like incense;  
    may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.

**3**Set a guard over my mouth, Lord;  
    keep watch over the door of my lips.  
**4**Do not let my heart be drawn to what is evil  
    so that I take part in wicked deeds  
along with those who are evildoers;  
    do not let me eat their delicacies.

**5**Let a righteous man strike me - that is a kindness;  
    let him rebuke me - that is oil on my head.  
My head will not refuse it,  
    for my prayer will still be against the deeds of evildoers.

**6**Their rulers will be thrown down from the cliffs,  
    and the wicked will learn that my words were well spoken.  
**7**They will say, “As one plows and breaks up the earth,  
    so our bones have been scattered at the mouth of the grave.”

**8**But my eyes are fixed on you, Sovereign Lord;  
    in you I take refuge - do not give me over to death.  
**9**Keep me safe from the traps set by evildoers,  
    from the snares they have laid for me.  
**10**Let the wicked fall into their own nets,  
    while I pass by in safety.

Psalm 142

**A *maskil* of David. When he was in the cave. A prayer.**

**1**I cry aloud to the Lord;  
    I lift up my voice to the Lord for mercy.  
**2**I pour out before him my complaint;  
    before him I tell my trouble.

**3**When my spirit grows faint within me,  
    it is you who watch over my way.  
In the path where I walk  
    people have hidden a snare for me.  
**4**Look and see, there is no one at my right hand;  
    no one is concerned for me.  
I have no refuge;  
    no one cares for my life.

**5**I cry to you, Lord;  
    I say, “You are my refuge,  
    my portion in the land of the living.”

**6**Listen to my cry,  
    for I am in desperate need;  
rescue me from those who pursue me,  
    for they are too strong for me.  
**7**Set me free from my prison,  
    that I may praise your name.  
Then the righteous will gather about me  
    because of your goodness to me.

Psalm 143

**A psalm of David.**

**1**Lord, hear my prayer,  
    listen to my cry for mercy;  
in your faithfulness and righteousness  
    come to my relief.  
**2**Do not bring your servant into judgment,  
    for no one living is righteous before you.  
**3**The enemy pursues me,  
    he crushes me to the ground;  
he makes me dwell in the darkness  
    like those long dead.  
**4**So my spirit grows faint within me;  
    my heart within me is dismayed.  
**5**I remember the days of long ago;  
    I meditate on all your works  
    and consider what your hands have done.  
**6**I spread out my hands to you;  
    I thirst for you like a parched land.

**7**Answer me quickly, Lord;  
    my spirit fails.  
Do not hide your face from me  
    or I will be like those who go down to the pit.  
**8**Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love,  
    for I have put my trust in you.  
Show me the way I should go,  
    for to you I entrust my life.  
**9**Rescue me from my enemies, Lord,  
    for I hide myself in you.  
**10**Teach me to do your will,  
    for you are my God;  
may your good Spirit  
    lead me on level ground.

**11**For your name’s sake, Lord, preserve my life;  
    in your righteousness, bring me out of trouble.  
**12**In your unfailing love, silence my enemies;  
    destroy all my foes,  
    for I am your servant.