**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.