

# Psalm 41<sup>[a]</sup>

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

- <sup>1</sup> Blessed are those who have regard for the weak;  
the LORD delivers them in times of trouble.
- <sup>2</sup> The LORD protects and preserves them—  
they are counted among the blessed in the land—  
he does not give them over to the desire of their foes.
- <sup>3</sup> The LORD sustains them on their sickbed  
and restores them from their bed of illness.
- <sup>4</sup> I said, "Have mercy on me, LORD;  
heal me, for I have sinned against you."
- <sup>5</sup> My enemies say of me in malice,  
"When will he die and his name perish?"
- <sup>6</sup> When one of them comes to see me,  
he speaks falsely, while his heart gathers slander;  
then he goes out and spreads it around.
- <sup>7</sup> All my enemies whisper together against me;  
they imagine the worst for me, saying,
- <sup>8</sup> "A vile disease has afflicted him;  
he will never get up from the place where he lies."
- <sup>9</sup> Even my close friend,  
someone I trusted,  
one who shared my bread,  
has turned<sup>[b]</sup> against me.
- <sup>10</sup> But may you have mercy on me, LORD;  
raise me up, that I may repay them.
- <sup>11</sup> I know that you are pleased with me,  
for my enemy does not triumph over me.
- <sup>12</sup> Because of my integrity you uphold me  
and set me in your presence forever.
- <sup>13</sup> Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel,  
from everlasting to everlasting.  
Amen and Amen.

## Old Testament Reading – Leviticus 19:9-18

<sup>9</sup> ""When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. <sup>10</sup> Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the LORD your God.

<sup>11</sup> ""Do not steal.

""Do not lie.

""Do not deceive one another.

<sup>12</sup> ""Do not swear falsely by my name and so profane the name of your God. I am the LORD.

<sup>13</sup> ""Do not defraud or rob your neighbor.

""Do not hold back the wages of a hired worker overnight.

<sup>14</sup> ""Do not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block in front of the blind, but fear your God. I am the LORD.

<sup>15</sup> ""Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly.

<sup>16</sup> ""Do not go about spreading slander among your people.

""Do not do anything that endangers your neighbor's life. I am the LORD.

<sup>17</sup> ""Do not hate a fellow Israelite in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in their guilt.

<sup>18</sup> ""Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.

## Epistle Reading - Colossians 1:1-14

<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

<sup>2</sup> To God's holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters<sup>[a]</sup> in Christ:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father.<sup>[b]</sup>

### Thanksgiving and Prayer

<sup>3</sup> We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, <sup>4</sup> because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people— <sup>5</sup> the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel <sup>6</sup> that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace. <sup>7</sup> You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant,<sup>[a]</sup> who is a faithful minister of Christ on our<sup>[a]</sup> behalf, <sup>8</sup> and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

<sup>9</sup> For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>10</sup> so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, <sup>11</sup> being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, <sup>12</sup> and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you<sup>[a]</sup> to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. <sup>13</sup> For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

## **Gospel Reading - Luke 10:25-37**

### **The Parable of the Good Samaritan**

<sup>25</sup> On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

<sup>26</sup> "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

<sup>27</sup> He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'<sup>[a]</sup>; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'<sup>[a]</sup>"

<sup>28</sup> "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

<sup>29</sup> But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

<sup>30</sup> In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own

donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denarii<sup>[a]</sup> and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

<sup>36</sup> "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

<sup>37</sup> The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."