

## Psalm 142

<sup>1</sup> I cry aloud to the LORD;  
I lift up my voice to the LORD for mercy.

<sup>2</sup> I pour out before him my complaint;  
before him I tell my trouble.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> I cry to you, LORD;  
I say, "You are my refuge,  
my portion in the land of the living."

<sup>6</sup> Listen to my cry,  
for I am in desperate need;  
rescue me from those who pursue me,  
for they are too strong for me.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

### Old Testament Reading - Isaiah 42:14-21

<sup>14</sup> "For a long time I have kept silent,  
I have been quiet and held myself back.  
But now, like a woman in childbirth,  
I cry out, I gasp and pant.

<sup>15</sup> I will lay waste the mountains and hills  
and dry up all their vegetation;  
I will turn rivers into islands  
and dry up the pools.

<sup>16</sup> I will lead the blind by ways they have not known,  
along unfamiliar paths I will guide them;  
I will turn the darkness into light before them  
and make the rough places smooth.  
These are the things I will do;  
I will not forsake them.

<sup>17</sup> But those who trust in idols,

who say to images, ‘You are our gods,’  
will be turned back in utter shame.

## **Israel Blind and Deaf**

<sup>18</sup> “Hear, you deaf;

look, you blind, and see!

<sup>19</sup> Who is blind but my servant,

and deaf like the messenger I send?

Who is blind like the one in covenant with me,

blind like the servant of the LORD?

<sup>20</sup> You have seen many things, but you pay no attention;

your ears are open, but you do not listen.”

<sup>21</sup> It pleased the LORD

for the sake of his righteousness

to make his law great and glorious.

## **Epistle Reading - Ephesians 5:8-14**

<sup>8</sup> For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) <sup>10</sup> and find out what pleases the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. <sup>12</sup> It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. <sup>13</sup> But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light.

<sup>14</sup> This is why it is said:

“Wake up, sleeper,

rise from the dead,

and Christ will shine on you.”

## **Gospel Reading - John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39**

Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

<sup>9</sup> As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

<sup>3</sup> “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup> As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

<sup>6</sup> After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. <sup>7</sup> “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. ...

<sup>13</sup> They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. <sup>14</sup> Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. <sup>15</sup> Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.”

<sup>16</sup> Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others asked, “How can a sinner perform such signs?” So they were divided.

<sup>17</sup> Then they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” ...

<sup>34</sup> To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out.

#### Spiritual Blindness

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

<sup>36</sup> “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.”

<sup>37</sup> Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.”

<sup>38</sup> Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.

<sup>39</sup> Jesus said,<sup>[a]</sup> “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.”