

Psalms and Prayers

This week, on Wednesday 25th March, we celebrate the Annunciation of our Lord to the Virgin Mary. This festival has come to be known as Lady Day as we turn our thoughts to Mary and the way her life was turned upside down by the visit of the Angel Gabriel proclaiming to her that she was the one chosen to bear God's Son. Our lives, too, have been turned upside down at the moment and perhaps we could take time to think of Mary and her humble response to God's seemingly impossible request. The words of Psalm 40, one of the psalms set for this day, remind us of God's faithfulness, His goodness towards us and our need to reach out to him prayer.

Psalm 40 (selected verses)

I waited patiently for the Lord;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.

He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.

Blessed is the man who makes the Lord his trust,
who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after a lie!

You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts towards us; none can compare with you!
I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.

I delight to do your will, O my God;
your law is within my heart."

As for you, O Lord, you will not restrain your mercy from me;
your steadfast love and your faithfulness will ever preserve me!

May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
may those who love your salvation say continually, "Great is the Lord!"

As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord takes thought for me.
You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God!

Lord, we are indeed poor and needy and we come to you for the help and strength that we need at this time. Please set our feet upon a rock and guide our steps so we may remain secure in your love and know your presence near us at all times.

Lord, grant us grateful hearts for all that we do have, for friends and family, for our church that is drawn closer together through our love of you, and we ask that you will indeed put a new song in our hearts that many may see and trust in the Lord.

Lord, we lift to you all those who are suffering.... all who grieve..... all who are alone and frightened. Be their deliverer, Lord, and enclose them in your loving arms and give them peace.

Lord, we ask that all those who are working to help others will be given the strength and protection they need, and that all in authority would act wisely for the good of all.

Lord, may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation say continually, "Great is the Lord!"

Amen