

Psalm 13

Prayer during the Day Tuesday Week 1

This is an urgent plea to God from a trusting and grateful heart. The Psalmist has been suffering for a long time. For a long time God has seemed absent. He holds to his faith, sustained by remembrance of past graces. He continues to trust that God will support him through his sufferings and will come and rescue him. The title reads: 'To the leader. A Psalm* of David'.

**¹How long, YHWH*?
Will you forget me
forever?**

**How long will you
hide your face from
me?**

**²How long must my
whole being* be
plunged into grief,
this sorrow in my
heart* day and night?**

**How long shall my
enemy prevail over
me?**

**³Look at me, answer
me, YHWH my God!
Give light to my eyes,
or I will sleep the
sleep of death.**

**⁴Let not my enemy
say, 'I have prevailed';
let not my foes rejoice
to see me go under.**

This is a heart-rending plea, like the following:

I commune with my heart in the night;
I meditate and my spirit keeps on searching.
Perhaps the Lord will always reject me,
and will never ever turn back to me with his grace?
Perhaps his kindness is exhausted,
and his promises have come to an end?

– Psalm 77:6-8

Why have you forgotten us completely?
Why have you forsaken us these many days?

– Lamentations 5:20

Is perhaps the enemy death itself? Compare Paul:

The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

– 1Corinthians 15:26

The psalmist is pleading not to die. God is the source of life, and gives light to more than our eyes:

With you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

– Psalm 36:9

Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

– Ephesians 5:14

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

– Luke 1:78-79

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

– John 1:9

With the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you.

– Ephesians 1:18

The resurrection of Jesus confirms our belief that death is not ‘a sleep from which there is no awakening’(Jeremiah 51:39). See the article on ‘Resurrection’ in the Introduction.

Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire.

– Apocalypse 20:14

When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: ‘Death has been swallowed up in victory.’ ‘Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?’ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

– 1Corinthians 15:54-57

The psalm concludes with a statement of trust, joy, praise and thanksgiving. The psalmist believes in YHWH’s ‘kindness’ and ‘saving help’. See both articles in the Introduction.

Hasten the day, and remember the appointed time,
and let people recount your mighty deeds.

– Sirach 36:10

⁵As for me, I trust* in your kindness*; let my heart* rejoice in your saving help*.

⁶I will sing to YHWH, because of the good that he has done to me.