

Psalm 67

January 1st; 20th Sunday Year A

6th Sunday of Easter Year C

Morning Prayer Tuesday Week 3

Evening Prayer Wednesday Week 2

The psalmist wants the whole world to experience God's gracious providence and to respond in praise. Especially notable is the universal ('catholic') scope of the prayer. The title reads: 'To the leader: with stringed instruments. A Psalm*. A Song.'

**¹O God be gracious to
us and bless* us and
show us the radiance
of your face
²that your way may be
known upon earth,
your saving* power
among all nations.**

How we long to experience God's face, gazing upon us with love!

May YHWH bless you and keep you; May YHWH make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; May YHWH lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

– Numbers 6:24-26

Shows to your servant your radiant face;
in your kindness save me.

– Psalm 31:16

Restore us, O God; let your face shine forth
and we will be saved.

– Psalm 80:3,7,19

Happy are the people, YHWH, who acclaim you.
YHWH, they will walk in the light of your countenance.

– Psalm 89:15

Make your face shine upon your servant,
and teach me your statutes.

– Psalm 119:135

Now therefore, O our God, listen to the prayer of your servant and to his supplication, and for your own sake, Lord, let your face shine upon your desolated sanctuary.

– Daniel 9:17

When Philip asked to see God, Jesus replied:

If you see me you see the Father.

– John 14:9

It was Jesus who made known upon earth God's gracious ways and saving power, and so revealed the radiance of God's face. We contemplate Jesus, the radiance of God's glory

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

– Ephesians 1:3

Verse three is a refrain (see verse five). The prophet Amos reflects on God's justice:

Seek good and not evil, that you may live;
and so YHWH, the God of hosts, will be with you,
just as you have said.
Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the
gate; it may be that YHWH, the God of hosts,
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.
Therefore thus says YHWH, the God of hosts, YHWH:
In all the squares there shall be wailing;
and in all the streets they shall say, "Alas! alas!"
They shall call the farmers to mourning,
and those skilled in lamentation, to wailing;
in all the vineyards there shall be wailing,
for I will pass through the midst of you, says YHWH.
Alas for you who desire the day of YHWH!
Why do you want the day of YHWH?
It is darkness, not light; as if someone fled from a lion,
and was met by a bear;
or went into the house and rested a hand
against the wall, and was bitten by a snake.
Is not the day of YHWH darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?
I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
Even though you offer me your burnt offerings
and grain offerings, I will not accept them;
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever flowing stream.

– Amos 5:14-24

The refrain of verse three is repeated.

³*Let the peoples praise
you, O God; let all the
peoples praise you.*

⁴*Let the nations be glad
and sing for joy, for you
judge* the peoples with
equity and govern the
nations of the earth.*

[Selah*]

⁵*Let the peoples praise
you, O God; let all the
peoples praise you.*

God's blessing

⁶The earth has yielded its harvest.

The yielding of a harvest is the earth's response to the blessing of rain from heaven.

I will give you your rains in their season,
and the land shall yield its produce,
and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.

– Leviticus 26:4

The trees of the field shall yield their fruit,
and the earth shall yield its increase.
They shall be secure on their soil;
and they shall know that I am YHWH.

– Ezekiel 34:27

For there shall be a sowing of peace; the vine shall yield its fruit, the ground shall give its produce, and the skies shall give their dew; and I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things.

– Zechariah 8:12

^{6b}God, our God, blesses* us.

⁷God blesses* us. Let the ends of the earth revere him.

'Our God' is YHWH, though not named. YHWH is the true God and all nations should praise him! Compare the following from the prophet Ezekiel:

I will make them and the region around my hill a blessing;
and I will send down the showers in their season;
they shall be showers of blessing.
The trees of the field shall yield their fruit,
and the earth shall yield its increase.
They shall be secure on their soil;
and they shall know that I am YHWH,
when I break the bars of their yoke,
and save them from the hands of those who enslaved them.
They shall no more be plunder for the nations,
nor shall the animals of the land devour them;
they shall live in safety,
and no one shall make them afraid.
I will provide for them a splendid vegetation
so that they shall no more be consumed with hunger
in the land, and no longer suffer
the insults of the nations.
They shall know that I, YHWH their God, am with them,
and that they, the house of Israel,
are my people, says the Lord YHWH.

– Ezekiel 34:26-30