

Psalm 92

11th Sunday Year B

8th Sunday Year C

Morning Prayer Saturday 2 & 4

The psalmist takes delight in thanking YHWH for the way he acts in history, including the way he has made the psalmist prevail over his enemies. People who lack wisdom are impressed by the fact that godless people are seen to flourish. The psalmist knows that they will finally be destroyed, for ‘there is no unrighteousness’ in YHWH. It is the only psalm to begin with the word ‘Good’. Note that YHWH is mentioned seven times. The title reads: ‘A Psalm*. A Song for the Sabbath Day.’

We are invited to join the psalmist in thanking YHWH for his faithfulness – a theme echoed in the final verse.

As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are
my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts
than your thoughts.

– Isaiah 55:9

Great are your judgments and hard to describe;
therefore uninstructed souls have gone astray.

– Wisdom 17:1

The foolish fail to recognise the wonder of God’s design. Compare the following:

I feared provocation by the enemy, for their adversaries might misunderstand and say, ‘Our hand is triumphant; it was not YHWH who did all this’. They are a nation void of sense; there is no understanding in them. If they were wise, they would understand this; they would discern what the end would be.

– Deuteronomy 32:27-29

**¹Good it is to give thanks to
YHWH*, to make music in your
honour, O Most High;**

**²to proclaim your kindness* in
the morning, and in the night
your faithfulness,**

**³to the music of the lute and
the harp, to the plucking of the
lyre.**

**⁴Your deeds, YHWH, have
made me glad; at the works of
your hands I sing for joy.**

**⁵How great are your works,
YHWH! Your thoughts are very
deep!**

**⁶The foolish cannot know, the
stupid cannot understand this.**

Evil does not pay

Those who are wise understand these things; those who are discerning know them.
For the ways of YHWH are right, and the upright walk in them,
but transgressors stumble in them.

– Hosea 14:9

They do not know the thoughts of YHWH; they do not understand his plan,
that he has gathered them as sheaves to the threshing floor.

– Micah 4:12

I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from
the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants.

– Matthew 11:25

Great and amazing are your deeds, Lord God the Almighty!
Just and true are your ways, King of the nations!

– Revelation 15:3

**⁷Though the wicked
sprout like grass and all
evildoers flourish, they
are forever doomed to
destruction.**

The psalmist uses the imagery of vegetation throughout
(see verses 7 and 12-14). Compare the following:

Your people are the shoot that I planted.

– Isaiah 60:21

Those who mourn in Zion ... will be called oaks of
righteousness, the planting of YHWH, to display his
glory.

– Isaiah 61:3

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of
the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the
breath of YHWH blows upon it.

– Isaiah 40:6-7

**⁸You, YHWH, are forever
on high.**

The haughty eyes of people shall be brought low, and
the pride of everyone shall be humbled; and YHWH
alone will be exalted in that day.

– Isaiah 2:11

**⁹Your enemies, YHWH,
your enemies will per-
ish; all evildoers will be
scattered.**

Psalm 75:4-5,10 speaks of the ‘horn’ in a similar way.
The image is of strength, especially in battle. The pow-
er of God’s people is likened to the power of a wild
ox:

God, who brings them out of Egypt, is like the horns of
a wild ox for them.

– Numbers 23:22 (see also Numbers 24:8)

**¹⁰But you have exalted
my horn like that of the
wild ox; you have poured
over me fresh oil.**

Majesty is his (speaking of Joseph)! His horns are the
horns of a wild ox.

– Deuteronomy 33:17

Oil speaks here of a sleek body, not a kingly or pro-
phetic anointing.

Peter reminds us that not all our enemies are outside. He speaks of 'the desires of the flesh that wage war against the soul' (1Peter 2:11).

For Christians the house of YHWH is the Church, the Body of Christ.

O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. Now in old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, so that I can proclaim your might and your power to the next generation: your power and your justice, O God, which reach to the heavens, and the great things that you have done. O God, who can compare with you?

– Psalm 71:17-19

I am like a green olive tree in the house of God.
I have always trusted in the kindness of God.

– Psalm 52:8

No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed ... for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

– Isaiah 65:20,22

The Rock, his work is perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God, without deceit, just and upright is he.

– Deuteronomy 32:4

Who will say: What have you done? Or who will resist your judgment? Who will accuse you for the destruction of nations that you made? Or who will come before you to plead as an advocate for the unrighteous? For neither is there any god besides you, whose care is for all people, to whom you should prove that you have not judged unjustly.

– Wisdom 12:12-13

¹¹My eyes have seen the downfall of my enemies; my ears have heard the doom of my evil assailants.

¹²The righteous flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

¹³They are planted in the house of YHWH; they flourish in the courts of our God.

¹⁴In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap,

¹⁵showing that YHWH is upright*; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.