



## Morning Prayer

Wednesday, December 11th

### Psalm 38

1 O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath.

**2 For your arrows have sunk into me, and your hand has come down on me.**

3 There is no soundness in my flesh because of your indignation; there is no health in my bones because of my sin.

**4 For my iniquities have gone over my head; they weigh like a burden too heavy for me.**

5 My wounds grow foul and fester because of my foolishness;

**6 I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; all day long I go around mourning.**

7 For my loins are filled with burning, and there is no soundness in my flesh.

**8 I am utterly spent and crushed; I groan because of the tumult of my heart.**

9 O Lord, all my longing is known to you; my sighing is not hidden from you.

**10 My heart throbs; my strength fails me; as for the light of my eyes—it also has gone from me.**

11 My friends and companions stand aloof from my affliction, and my neighbors stand far off.

**12 Those who seek my life lay their snares; those who seek to hurt me speak of ruin and meditate on treachery all day long.**

13 But I am like the deaf; I do not hear; like the mute, who cannot speak.

**14 Truly, I am like one who does not hear and in whose mouth is no retort.**

15 But it is for you, O Lord, that I wait; it is you, O Lord my God, who will answer.

**16 For I pray, "Only do not let them rejoice over me, those who boast against me when my foot slips."**

17 For I am ready to fall, and my pain is ever with me.

**18 I confess my iniquity; I am sorry for my sin.**

19 Those who are my foes without cause are mighty, and many are those who hate me wrongfully.

**20 Those who render me evil for good are my adversaries because I follow after good.**

21 Do not forsake me, O Lord; O my God, do not be far from me;

**22 make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation.**

**A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians** (*2 Thessalonians 1:1-12*)

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. Therefore we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith during all your persecutions and the afflictions that you are enduring. This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God and is intended to make you worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering. For it is indeed just of God to repay with affliction those who afflict you and to give relief to the afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in a fiery flame, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, separated from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes to be glorified by his saints and to be marveled at on that day among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. To this end we always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfill by his power every good resolve and work of faith, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People:** *Thanks be to God.*

**A reading from the Gospel according to John** (*John 7:53-8:11*)

Then each of them went home, while Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and, making her stand before all of them, they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People:** *Thanks be to God.*