

## Psalm 129

Prayer during the Day Thursday Week 4

As with all the psalms from Psalm 120 to Psalm 134, the title reads 'A Song of Ascents.' This is a prayer that those who oppose Jerusalem will be thwarted and deprived of God's blessing.

The people have been treated cruelly:

I will put it into the hand of your tormentors, who have said to you, 'Bow down, that we may walk on you'; and you have made your back like the ground and like the street for them to walk on.

– Isaiah 51:23

I will trample your flesh on the thorns of the wilderness and on briars.

– Judges 8:7

They have threshed Gilead with threshing sledges of iron.

– Amos 1:3

They have been used as slaves to do the work of farm animals, pulling the plough and turning the mill wheel.

There is no other god besides me, a just God and a Saviour.

– Isaiah 45:21

YHWH within the city is just; he does no wrong.

– Zephaniah 3:5

They have become like plants of the field and like tender grass, like grass on the housetops, blighted before it is grown.

– Isaiah 37:27

To refuse a blessing is to declare that those who hate Jerusalem do not belong to the people of YHWH and are separated from God.

**<sup>1</sup> Often have they attacked me from my youth – so says Israel –**

**<sup>2</sup> often have they attacked me from my youth, yet they have not prevailed against me.**

**<sup>3</sup> Those working the plough ploughed my back; they made their furrows long.**

**<sup>4</sup> YHWH\* is just\*; he has cut to pieces the yoke of the wicked.**

**<sup>5</sup> May all who hate Zion be put to shame and repulsed.**

**<sup>6</sup> Let them be like the grass on the housetops that withers before it is cut.**

**<sup>7</sup> The reapers do not get to handle it, nor is it bound into sheaves.**

**<sup>8</sup> Those who pass by do not say, 'The blessing\* of YHWH be upon you! We bless\* you in the name of YHWH!'**