**Psalm 5: A Responsive Reading**

 (congregation reads text in **bold print**)

Give ear to my words, O Yahweh,
**Consider my meditation.**
Give heed to the voice of my cry, my King and my God,
**For to You I will pray.**My voice You shall hear in the morning, O Yahweh;
**In the morning I will direct it to You, and I will look up.**

For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness,
**Nor shall evil dwell with You.**
The boastful shall not stand in Your sight;
**You hate all workers of iniquity.**
You shall destroy those who speak falsehood;
**Yahweh abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.**

But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy;
**In fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple.**
Lead me, O Yahweh, in Your righteousness because of my enemies;
**Make Your way straight before my face.**

For there is no faithfulness in their mouth;
**Their inward part is destruction;**
Their throat is an open tomb;
**They flatter with their tongue.**Pronounce them guilty, O God!
**Let them fall by their own counsels;**
Cast them out in the multitude of their transgressions,
**For they have rebelled against You.**

But let all those rejoice who put their trust in You;
**Let them ever shout for joy, because You defend them;**
Let those also who love Your name
**Be joyful in You.**For You, O Yahweh, will bless the righteous;
**With favor You will surround him as with a shield.**

**Praying Psalm 5**

This is a good psalm to pray in the morning as you begin your day.

Read verses 1-3 as the direct prayer of your heart. As you ask God to hear your prayer, reflect on the wonder that He is *your* King and *your* God.

Read verses 4-6. Praise God for His holiness and justice. Ask Him to fortify you to resist temptations that will come your way this day.

Read verses 7-8. Thank God for His mercy to you in Christ, through whom you can come into His presence. Spend a few moments in silent contemplation and worship of your great God. Ask Him to lead you in His righteous ways today.

Read verses 9-10. Commit the judgment of the wicked to the Lord. Rest in His justice, and ask Him to deliver you from personal judgmentalism. Rejoice that He showed His love to you while you were His enemy.

Read verses 11-12. As you renew your trust in the Lord, thank and praise Him for His saving protection. Ask Him to fill you with joy in Him today.