

## **Psalm 134**

### *Ecce nunc*

1 Behold now, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, \*  
you that stand by night in the house of the Lord.

2 Lift up your hands in the holy place \*  
and bless the Lord;

3 the Lord who made heaven and earth \*  
bless you out of Zion.

## **Psalm 135**

### *Laudate nomen*

1 Hallelujah!  
Praise the name of the Lord; \*  
give praise, you servants of the Lord,

2 you who stand in the house of the Lord, \*  
in the courts of the house of our God.

3 Praise the Lord,  
for the Lord is good; \*  
sing praises to the name of the Lord,  
for it is lovely.

4 For you, O Lord, have chosen Jacob \*  
and Israel as a possession.

**Morning Prayer – Columba, Abbot of Iona - 597**

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5 For I know that you, O Lord, are great, \*  
and that you are above all gods.

6 O Lord, you do whatever pleases you \*  
in the seas and all the deeps.

7 You, O Lord, bring up rain clouds from the ends of the earth; \*  
sending out lightning with the rain,  
and bringing the winds out of the storehouse of heaven.

8 It was you, O Lord, who struck down the firstborn of Egypt, \*  
the firstborn both of mortal and beast.

9 The Lord sent signs and wonders into the midst of you, O Egypt, \*  
against Pharaoh and all his servants,

10 overthrowing many nations \*  
and putting mighty rulers to death:

11 Sihon, king of the Amorites, and Og, the king of Bashan, \*  
and all the kingdoms of Canaan.

12 The Lord gave their land to be an inheritance, \*  
an inheritance for the people of Israel.

13 O Lord, your name is everlasting; \*  
your renown endures from age to age.

14 For you give your people justice \*  
and show compassion to your servants.

15 The idols of the heathen are silver and gold, \*  
the work of human hands.

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16 They have mouths, but they cannot speak; \*  
eyes have they, but they cannot see.

17 They have ears, but they cannot hear; \*  
neither is there any breath in their mouth.

18 Those who make them are like them, \*  
and so are all who put their trust in them.

19 Bless the Lord, O house of Israel; \*  
O house of Aaron, bless the Lord.

20 Bless the Lord, O house of Levi; \*  
you who fear the Lord, bless the Lord.

21 Blessed be the Lord out of Zion, \*  
who dwells in Jerusalem.  
Hallelujah!

Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word, and Holy Spirit:  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

## **Ecclesiastes 8:14-9:10**

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes.

There is a vanity that takes place on earth, that there are righteous people who are treated according to the conduct of the wicked and wicked people who are treated according to the conduct of the righteous. I said that this also is vanity. So I commend enjoyment, for there is nothing better for people under the sun than to eat and drink and enjoy themselves, for this will go with them in their toil through the days of life that God gives them under the sun.

When I applied my mind to know wisdom and to see the business that is done on earth, how one's eyes see sleep neither day nor night, then I saw all the work of God, that no one can find out what is happening under the sun. However much they may toil in seeking, they will not find it out; even though those who are wise claim to know, they cannot find it out.

All this I laid to heart, examining it all, how the righteous and the wise and their deeds are in the hand of God; whether it is love or hate one does not know. Everything that confronts them is vanity, since the same fate comes to all, to the righteous and the wicked, to the good and the evil, to the clean and the unclean, to those who sacrifice and those who do not sacrifice. As are the good, so are the sinners; those who swear are like those who shun an oath. This is an evil in all that happens under the sun, that the same fate comes to everyone. Moreover, the hearts of humans are full of evil; madness is in their hearts while they live, and after that they go to the dead. But whoever is joined with all the living has hope, for a living dog is better than a dead lion. The living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing; they have no more reward, and even the memory of them is lost. Their love and their hate and their envy have already perished; never again will they have any share in all that happens under the sun.

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Go, eat your bread with enjoyment and drink your wine with a merry heart, for God has long ago approved what you do. Let your garments always be white; do not let oil be lacking on your head. Enjoy life with the wife whom you love all the days of your vain life that are given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun. Whatever your hand finds to do, do with your might, for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**