



CANONICAL HOURS

The religious communities of the early church developed seven daily hours of prayer which reflect the words of the psalmist: "Seven times a day do I praise You" (Psalm 119:164). For these seven Hours eight services were provided, Matins and Lauds being combined in one Hour. These became known as the "Canonical Hours" because they were prescribed in the Canon or "Rule" of St Benedict about AD 530.

The central feature in each Office or service was the recitation of a portion of the Psalter. To this were added the reading of Scripture, homilies, hymns, canticles, and prayers. Of these seven Offices, three are included in *Lutheran Service Book*: Matins, Vespers, and Compline ("Prayer at the Close of the Day"). The remaining four we include here.

Prime, at the beginning of the day's work, is characterized by supplication. Terce, Sext, and None respectively, hallow the forenoon, noon, and afternoon, and have the same structure and general character of petition. They share with Prime the reading of Psalm 119, as if to direct the soul again and again during the work of the day to the eternal Word of God of which it speaks.

The following forms of the Hours are adapted from Herbert Lindemann's, *The Daily Office* (St. Louis & London: Concordia Publishing House, 1965).

THE OFFICE AT PRIME

Stand

VERSICLE

Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

Make haste to help me, O Lord.

Ps. 70:1

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Alleluia.

In Lent, instead of the ALLELUIA, the LAUS TIBI:

Praise to You, O Lord, King of eternal glory.

PSALM 119

One of the following sections is spoken or sung (p. 28), concluding with the Gloria Patri:

ⲁ Aleph (vv. 1-8)

ⲛ Daleth (vv. 25-32)

ⲃ Beth (vv. 9-16)

ⲕ He (vv. 33-40)

ⲁ Gimel (vv. 17-24)

ⲓ Waw (vv. 41-48)

Sit. (If this is a hymn of praise, it is appropriate to remain standing.)

OFFICE HYMN

The ATHANASIAN CREED may be confessed at this place (LSB 319).

LITTLE CHAPTER

To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Tim. 1:17

Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

RESPONSORY

O Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy upon us.

You who are seated at the right hand of the Father:

Have mercy upon us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

O Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy upon us.

Arise, O Christ, and help us.

And deliver us for Your name's sake.

HOMILY

Kneel/Stand

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

LORD'S PRAYER

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.

VERSICLES

I cry to You, O Lord;

in the morning my prayer comes before You.

Ps. 88:13

My mouth is filled with Your praise,

and with Your glory all the day.

Ps. 71:8

Hide Your face from my sins,

and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,

and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Your presence,

and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,

and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Ps. 51:9-12

CONFESSION

I confess to God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and before all the company of heaven, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed, through my fault, my own fault, my most grievous fault; wherefore I pray Almighty God to have mercy upon me, to forgive me all my sins, and to make clean my heart within me.

May the almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins, grace for true repentance, amendment of life, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Vouchsafe, O Lord,
to keep us this day without sin.

O Lord, have mercy upon us,
have mercy upon us.

O Lord, let Your mercy be upon us,
as our trust is in You.

O Lord, hear my prayer,
and let my cry come to You.

COLLECT

O everlasting Jesus, who in the early morning gave Yourself to be reviled and scoffed at by Your enemies, visit us, we pray, at this hour with Your grace and mercy that throughout the day we may find peace and joy in all that ministers to Your praise and glory, who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever.

Amen.

The Lord Almighty order this day and all our doings in His peace.

Amen.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

Ps. 124:8

Stand

BENEDICAMUS

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

BLESSING

The Lord bless us and keep us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

PSALM 119 SELECTIONS

⌵ Aleph

- ¹ Blessèd are those whose way is | blameless,*
who walk in the law | of the LORD!
- ² Blessèd are those who keep his testi- | monies,*
who seek him with their | whole heart,
- ³ who also | do no wrong,*
but walk | in his ways!
- ⁴ You have commanded your | precepts*
to be kept dil- | igently.
- ⁵ Oh that my ways may be | steadfast*
in keeping your | statutes!
- ⁶ Then I shall not be | put to shame,*
having my eyes fixed on all your com- | mandments.
- ⁷ I will praise you with an | upright heart,*
when I learn your just and righ- | teous decrees.
- ⁸ I will keep your | statutes;*
do not utterly for- | sake me!

⌶ Beth

- ⁹ How can a young man keep his | way pure?*
By guarding it according | to your word.
- ¹⁰ With my whole heart I | seek you;*
let me not wander from your com- | mandments!
- ¹¹ I have stored up your word | in my heart,*
that I might not sin a- | gainst you.
- ¹² Blessèd are you, | O LORD;*
teach me your | statutes!
- ¹³ With my lips | I declare*
all the just decrees | of your mouth.
- ¹⁴ In the way of your testimonies | I delight*
as much as in all | riches.
- ¹⁵ I will meditate on your | precepts*
and fix my eyes | on your ways.
- ¹⁶ I will delight in your | statutes;*
I will not for- | get your word.

ג Gimel

- ¹⁷ Deal bountifully with your | servant,*
that I may live and | keep your word.
- ¹⁸ Open my eyes, that I | may behold*
wondrous things out | of your law.
- ¹⁹ I am a sojourner | on the earth;*
hide not your command- | ments from me!
- ²⁰ My soul is consumed with | longing*
for your just decrees at | all times.
- ²¹ You rebuke the insolent, ac- | cursèd ones,*
who wander from your com- | mandments.
- ²² Take away from me scorn | and contempt,*
for I have kept your testi- | monies.
- ²³ Even though princes sit plotting a- | gainst me,*
your servant will meditate on your | statutes.
- ²⁴ Your testimonies are | my delight;*
they are my | counsellors.

ד Daleth

- ²⁵ My soul clings | to the dust;*
give me life according | to your word!
- ²⁶ When I told of my ways, you | answered me;*
teach me your | statutes!
- ²⁷ Make me understand the way of your | precepts,*
and I will meditate on your | wondrous works.
- ²⁸ My soul melts away for | sorrow;*
strengthen me according | to your word!
- ²⁹ Put false ways | far from me*
and graciously teach | me your law!
- ³⁰ I have chosen the way of | faithfulness;*
I set your just decrees be- | fore me.
- ³¹ I cling to your testimonies, | O LORD;*
let me not be | put to shame!
- ³² I will run in the way of your com- | mandments*
when you en- | large my heart!

7 He

³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way of your | statutes;*
and I will keep it | to the end.

³⁴ Give me understanding, that I may | keep your law*
and observe it with my | whole heart.

³⁵ Lead me in the path of your com- | mandments,*
for I de- | light in it.

³⁶ Incline my heart to your testi- | monies,*
and not to | selfish gain!

³⁷ Turn my eyes from looking at | worthless things;*
and give me life | in your ways.

³⁸ Confirm to your servant your | promise,*
that you | may be feared.

³⁹ Turn away the reproach | that I dread,*
for your just de- | crees are good.

⁴⁰ Behold, I long for your | precepts,*
in your righteousness | give me life!

7 Waw

⁴¹ Let your steadfast love come to me, | O LORD,*
your salvation according to your | promise;

⁴² then shall I have an answer for him who | taunts me,*
for I trust | in your word.

⁴³ And take not the word of truth utterly out | of my mouth,*
for my hope is in your | just decrees.

⁴⁴ I will keep your law con- | tinually,*
for ever and | ever,

⁴⁵ and I shall walk in a | wide place,*
for I have sought your | precepts.

⁴⁶ I will also speak of your testimonies be- | fore kings*
and shall not be | put to shame,

⁴⁷ for I find my delight in your com- | mandments,*
which | I love.

⁴⁸ I will lift up my hands toward your commandments, | which I love,*
and I will meditate on your | statutes.

THE OFFICE AT TERCE

Stand

VERSICLE

Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

Make haste to help me, O Lord.

Ps. 70:1

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Alleluia.

In Lent, instead of the ALLELUIA, the LAUS TIBI:

Praise to You, O Lord, King of eternal glory.

PSALM 119

One of the following sections is spoken or sung (p. 32), concluding with the Gloria Patri:

י Zayin (vv. 49-56)

י Yodh (vv. 73-80)

ה Heth (vv. 57-64)

כ Kaph (vv. 81-88)

ט Teth (vv. 65-72)

ל Lamedh (vv. 89-96)

Sit. (If this is a hymn of praise, it is appropriate to remain standing.)

OFFICE HYMN

LITTLE CHAPTER

God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

1 John 4:16

Thanks be to God.

Be my Helper, do not forsake me.

Do not leave me, O God, my Saviour.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

HOMILY

Kneel/Stand

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

LORD'S PRAYER

O Lord, hear my prayer.

And let my cry come to You.

COLLECT

O God, almighty Father, we humbly beseech Your Divine Majesty that, as You strengthened Your apostles at the third hour by the visitation of Your Holy Spirit, so You will also deign to enlighten and guard our hearts and bodies by His coming; through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

Amen.

Stand

BENEDICAMUS

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 119 SELECTIONS

† Zayin

⁴⁹ Remember your word to your | servant,*
in which you have | made me hope.

⁵⁰ This is my comfort in my af- | fliction,*
that your promise | gives me life.

⁵¹ The insolent utterly de- | ride me,*
but I do not turn away | from your law.

⁵² When I think of your just decrees | from of old,*
I take comfort, | O LORD.

⁵³ Hot indignation seizes me because of the | wicked,*
who for- | sake your law.

⁵⁴ Your statutes have | been my songs*
in the house of my | sojourning.

⁵⁵ I remember your name in the night, | O LORD,*
and | keep your law.

⁵⁶ This blessing has fal- | len to me,*
that I have kept your | precepts.

𐌆 Heth

- ⁵⁷ The LORD is my | portion;*
I promise to | keep your words.
- ⁵⁸ I entreat your favour with | all my heart;*
be gracious to me according to your | promise.
- ⁵⁹ When I think | on my ways,*
I turn my feet to your testi- | monies;
- ⁶⁰ I hasten and do | not delay*
to keep your com- | mandments.
- ⁶¹ Though the cords of the wicked en- | snare me,*
I do not for- | get your law.
- ⁶² At midnight I rise to | praise you,*
because of your just and righ- | teous decrees.
- ⁶³ I am a companion of all who | fear you,*
of those who keep your | precepts.
- ⁶⁴ The earth, O LORD, is full of your | steadfast love;*
teach me your | statutes!

𐌆 Teth

- ⁶⁵ You have dealt well with your | servant,*
O LORD, according | to your word.
- ⁶⁶ Teach me good judgement and | knowledge,*
for I believe in your com- | mandments.
- ⁶⁷ Before I was afflicted I | went astray,*
but now I | keep your word.
- ⁶⁸ You are good and | do good;*
teach me your | statutes.
- ⁶⁹ The insolent smear | me with lies,*
but with my whole heart I keep your | precepts;
- ⁷⁰ their heart is unfeeling | like fat,*
but I delight | in your law.
- ⁷¹ It is good for me that I was af- | flicted,*
that I might learn your | statutes.
- ⁷² The law of your mouth is bet- | ter to me*
than thousands of gold and silver | pieces.

Yodh

⁷³Your hands have made and | fashioned me;*
give me understanding that I may learn your com- | mandments.

⁷⁴Those who fear you shall see me | and rejoice,*
because I have hoped | in your word.

⁷⁵I know, O LORD, that your just decrees are | righteous,*
and that in faithfulness you have af- | flicted me.

⁷⁶Let your steadfast love | comfort me*
according to your promise to your | servant.

⁷⁷Let your mercy come to me, that | I may live;*
for your law is | my delight.

⁷⁸Let the insolent be put to shame, because they have wronged me
with | falsehood;*
as for me, I will meditate on your | precepts.

⁷⁹Let those who fear you | turn to me,*
that they may know your testi- | monies.

⁸⁰May my heart be blameless in your | statutes,*
that I may not be | put to shame!

Kaph

⁸¹My soul longs for your sal- | vation;*
I hope | in your word.

⁸²My eyes long for your | promise;*
I ask, "When will you | comfort me?"

⁸³For I have become like a wineskin | in the smoke,*
yet I have not forgotten your | statutes.

⁸⁴How long must your ser- | vant endure?*

When will you judge those who perse- | cute me?

⁸⁵The insolent have dug pit- | falls for me;*
they do not live according | to your law.

⁸⁶All your command- | ments are sure;*
they persecute me with falsehood; | help me!

⁸⁷They have almost made an end of me | on earth,*
but I have not forsaken your | precepts.

⁸⁸In your steadfast love | give me life,*
that I may keep the testimonies | of your mouth.

ל Lamedh

⁸⁹For ever, | O LORD, *

your word is firmly fixed in the | heavens.

⁹⁰Your faithfulness endures to all gener- | ations;*

you have established the earth, and it | stands fast.

⁹¹By your appointment they | stand this day, *

for all things are your | servants.

⁹²If your law had not been | my delight, *

I would have perished in my af- | fliction.

⁹³I will never forget your | precepts, *

for by them you have giv- | en me life.

⁹⁴I am yours; | save me, *

for I have sought your | precepts.

⁹⁵The wicked lie in wait to de- | stroy me, *

but I consider your testi- | monies.

⁹⁶I have seen a limit to all per- | fection, *

but your commandment is exceed- | ingly broad.

THE OFFICE AT SEXT

Stand

VERSICLE

Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

Make haste to help me, O Lord.

Ps. 70:1

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Alleluia. | *In Lent, instead of the ALLELUIA, the LAUS TIBI:*
Praise to You, O Lord, King of eternal glory.

PSALM 119

One of the following sections is spoken or sung (p. 37), concluding with the Gloria Patri:

ⲁ Mem (vv. 97-104)

ⲡ Ayin (vv. 121-28)

ⲓ Nun (vv. 105-12)

ⲛ Pe (vv. 129-36)

ⲟ Samekh (vv. 113-20)

Sit. (If this is a hymn of praise, it is appropriate to remain standing.)

OFFICE HYMN

LITTLE CHAPTER

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Gal. 6:2

Thanks be to God.

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures.

Ps. 23:1-2

SCRIPTURE READINGS

HOMILY

Kneel/Stand

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

LORD'S PRAYER

O Lord, hear my prayer.

And let my cry come to You.

COLLECT

O most gracious Jesus, our Lord and our God, who, as at this hour, bore our sins in Your own body on the tree that we, being dead unto sin, might live unto righteousness, have mercy upon us, we beseech You, both now and at the hour of our death, and grant unto us, Your humble servants with all other Christian people, who have this Your blessed Passion in devout remembrance, a godly and peaceful life in this present world and through Your grace eternal glory in the life to come, where, with the Father and the Holy Spirit You live and reign, one God now and for ever.

Amen.

Stand

BENEDICAMUS

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 119 SELECTIONS

Mem

⁹⁷ Oh how I | love your law!*

It is my meditation | all the day.

⁹⁸ Your commandment makes me wiser than my | enemies,*

for it is ever | with me.

⁹⁹ I have more understanding than all my | teachers,*

for your testimonies are my medi- | tation.

¹⁰⁰ I understand more than the | aged,*

for I keep your | precepts.

¹⁰¹ I hold back my feet from every | evil way,*

in order to | keep your word.

¹⁰² I do not turn aside from your | just decrees,*

for you have | taught me.

¹⁰³ How sweet are your words | to my taste,*

sweeter than honey | to my mouth!

¹⁰⁴ Through your precepts I get under- | standing;*

therefore I hate every | false way.

י Nun

- ¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp | to my feet*
and a light | to my path.
- ¹⁰⁶ I have sworn an oath and con- | firmed it,*
to keep your just and righ- | teous decrees.
- ¹⁰⁷ I am severely af- | flicted,*
give me life, O LORD, according | to your word!
- ¹⁰⁸ Accept my freewill offerings of praise, | O LORD,*
and teach me your | just decrees.
- ¹⁰⁹ I hold my life in my hand con- | tinually,*
but I do not for- | get your law.
- ¹¹⁰ The wicked have laid a | snare for me,*
but I do not stray from your | precepts.
- ¹¹¹ Your testimonies are my heritage for | ever,*
for they are the joy | of my heart.
- ¹¹² I incline my heart to perform your | statutes*
for ever, | to the end.

ס Samekh

- ¹¹³ I hate the double- | minded,*
but I | love your law.
- ¹¹⁴ You are my hiding place | and my shield;*
I hope | in your word.
- ¹¹⁵ Depart from me, you evil- | doers,*
that I may keep the commandments | of my God.
- ¹¹⁶ Uphold me according to your promise, that | I may live,*
and let me not be put to shame | in my hope!
- ¹¹⁷ Hold me up, that I | may be safe*
and have regard for your statutes con- | tinually!
- ¹¹⁸ You spurn all who go astray from your | statutes,*
for their cunning | is in vain.
- ¹¹⁹ All the wicked of the earth you dis- | card like dross,*
therefore I love your testi- | monies.
- ¹²⁰ My flesh trembles for | fear of you,*
and I am afraid of your | judgements.

י Ayin

- ¹²¹ I have done what is | just and right;*,
do not leave me to my op- | pressors.
- ¹²² Give your servant a | pledge of good;*,
let not the insolent op- | press me.
- ¹²³ My eyes long for your sal- | vation*,
and for the fulfilment of your righteous | promise.
- ¹²⁴ Deal with your servant according to your | steadfast love;*,
and teach me your | statutes.
- ¹²⁵ I am your servant; give me under- | standing;*,
that I may know your testi- | monies!
- ¹²⁶ It is time for the | LORD to act;*,
for your law has been | broken.
- ¹²⁷ Therefore I love your com- | mandments*,
above gold, above | fine gold.
- ¹²⁸ Therefore I consider all your precepts | to be right;*,
I hate every | false way.

פ Pe

- ¹²⁹ Your testimonies are | wonderful;*,
therefore my soul | keeps them.
- ¹³⁰ The unfolding of your | words gives light;*,
it imparts understanding to the | simple.
- ¹³¹ I open my | mouth and pant;*,
because I long for your com- | mandments.
- ¹³² Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me;*,
as is your way with those who | love your name.
- ¹³³ Keep steady my steps according to your | promise;*,
and let no iniquity get dominion | over me.
- ¹³⁴ Redeem me from man's op- | pression;*,
that I may keep your | precepts.
- ¹³⁵ Make your face shine upon your | servant;*,
and teach me your | statutes.
- ¹³⁶ My eyes shed | streams of tears;*,
because people do not | keep your law.

THE OFFICE AT NONE

Stand

VERSICLE

Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

Make haste to help me, O Lord.

Ps. 70:1

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Alleluia. | *In Lent, instead of the ALLELUIA, the LAUS TIBI:*
Praise to You, O Lord, King of eternal glory.

PSALM 119

One of the following sections is spoken or sung (p. 41), concluding with the Gloria Patri:

צ Tsadhe (vv. 137-44)

ש Sin and Shin (vv. 161-68)

ק Qoph (vv. 145-52)

ת Taw (vv. 169-76)

ר Resh (vv. 153-60)

Sit. (If this is a hymn of praise, it is appropriate to remain standing.)

OFFICE HYMN

CHAPTER

You were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

1 Cor. 6:20

Thanks be to God.

Declare me innocent from hidden faults.

Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins.

Ps. 19:12

SCRIPTURE READINGS

HOMILY

Kneel/Stand

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

LORD'S PRAYER

O Lord, hear my prayer

And let my cry come to You.

COLLECT

Hear us, O merciful Lord Jesus Christ, and remember now the hour in which You commended Your blessed Spirit into the hands of Your heavenly Father; and so assist us by this Your most precious death that, being dead unto the world, we may live only unto You, and that at the hour of our departing from this mortal life we may be received into Your everlasting kingdom, there to reign with You, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Stand

BENEDICAMUS

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 119 SELECTIONS**𐤔 Tsadhe**

¹³⁷ Righteous are you, | O LORD,*
and right are your | just decrees.

¹³⁸ You have appointed your testimonies in | righteousness*
and in all | faithfulness.

¹³⁹ My zeal con- | sumes me,*
because my foes for- | get your words.

¹⁴⁰ Your promise is | well tried,*
and your servant | loves it.

¹⁴¹ I am small | and despised,*
yet I do not forget your | precepts.

¹⁴² Your righteousness is righteous for | ever,*
and your | law is true.

¹⁴³ Trouble and anguish have | found me out,*
but your commandments are | my delight.

¹⁴⁴ Your testimonies are righteous for | ever,*
give me understanding that | I may live.

Qoph

- ¹⁴⁵ With my whole heart I cry; answer me, | O LORD! *
I will keep your | statutes.
- ¹⁴⁶ I call to you; | save me, *
that I may observe your testi- | monies.
- ¹⁴⁷ I rise before dawn and | cry for help; *
I hope | in your words.
- ¹⁴⁸ My eyes are awake before the watches | of the night, *
that I may meditate on your | promise.
- ¹⁴⁹ Hear my voice according to your | steadfast love; *
O LORD, according to your justice | give me life.
- ¹⁵⁰ They draw near who persecute me with evil | purpose; *
they are far | from your law.
- ¹⁵¹ But you are near, | O LORD, *
and all your command- | ments are true.
- ¹⁵² Long have I known from your testi- | monies *
that you have founded them for | ever.

Resh

- ¹⁵³ Look on my affliction and de- | liver me, *
for I do not for- | get your law.
- ¹⁵⁴ Plead my cause and re- | deem me; *
give me life according to your | promise!
- ¹⁵⁵ Salvation is far from the | wicked, *
for they do not seek your | statutes.
- ¹⁵⁶ Great is your mercy, | O LORD; *
give me life according to your | just decrees.
- ¹⁵⁷ Many are my persecutors and my adver- | saries, *
but I do not swerve from your testi- | monies.
- ¹⁵⁸ I look at the faithless | with disgust, *
because they do not keep | your commands.
- ¹⁵⁹ Consider how I love your | precepts! *
Give me life according to your | steadfast love.
- ¹⁶⁰ The sum of your | word is truth, *
and every one of your just and righteous decrees endures for | ever.

𐤔 Sin and Shin

¹⁶¹ Princes persecute me with- | out cause,*
but my heart stands in awe | of your words.

¹⁶² I rejoice | at your word*
like one who | finds great spoil.

¹⁶³ I hate and abhor | falsehood,*
but I | love your law.

¹⁶⁴ Seven times a day I | praise you*
for your just and righ- | teous decrees.

¹⁶⁵ Great peace have those who | love your law;*
nothing can make them | stumble.

¹⁶⁶ I hope for your salvation, | O LORD,*
and I do your com- | mandments.

¹⁶⁷ My soul keeps your testi- | monies;*
I love them ex- | ceedingly.

¹⁶⁸ I keep your precepts and testi- | monies,*
for all my ways are be- | fore you.

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¹⁶⁹ Let my cry come before you, | O LORD;*
give me understanding according | to your word!

¹⁷⁰ Let my plea come be- | fore you;*
deliver me according | to your word.

¹⁷¹ My lips will | pour forth praise,*
for you teach me your | statutes.

¹⁷² My tongue will sing | of your word,*
for all your command- | ments are right.

¹⁷³ Let your hand be ready to | help me,*
for I have chosen your | precepts.

¹⁷⁴ I long for your salvation, | O LORD,*
and your law is | my delight.

¹⁷⁵ Let my soul live and | praise you,*
and let your just decrees | help me.

¹⁷⁶ I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek your | servant,*
for I do not forget your com- | mandments.