

Praying With the Poets: Devotions for Lent
Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 2022

The Fourth Psalm
(responsively by half-verse)

- ¹Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause;*
**you set me free when I am hard-pressed; have mercy on me
and hear my prayer.**
- ²“You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory;*
**how long will you worship dumb idols and run after false
gods?”**
- ³Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful;*
when I call upon the LORD, he will hear me.
- ⁴Tremble, then, and do not sin;*
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.
- ⁵Offer the appointed sacrifices,*
and put your trust in the LORD.
- ⁶Many are saying, “Oh, that we might see better times!”*
Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O LORD.
- ⁷You have put gladness in my heart,*
more than when grain and wine and oil increase.
- ⁸I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep;*
for only you, LORD, make me dwell in safety.
- Glory be to the Father, and to Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
**as it was in the beginning, is now and shall be forever, world
without end. Amen.**

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Prayer (I)

George Herbert (1593-1633)

Prayer the church's banquet, angel's age,
God's breath in man returning to his birth,
The soul in paraphrase, heart in pilgrimage,
The Christian plummet sounding heav'n and earth,
Engine against th' Almighty, sinner's tow'r,
Reversed thunder, Christ-side-piercing spear,
The six-days world transposing in an hour,
A kind of tune, which all things hear and fear;
Softness, and peace, and joy, and love, and bliss,
Exalted manna, gladness of the best,
Heaven in ordinary, man well drest,
The Milky Way, the bird of Paradise,
Church-bells beyond the stars heard, the soul's blood,
The land of spices; something understood.

About the Poet

Herbert was the fifth son of a wealthy family. His mother, Magdalene Herbert, was a patron of the arts and confidante of John Donne. Although trained for a life of government service, he wrestled for years with a call to the Anglican priesthood.

From 1629 until his death three years later, he served a small rural parish. It was there that he composed most of his poems as well as his one prose work, *The Country Parson*.