

Praying with the Psalms

Fr Gerard Kelly



THE PSALMS

BOOK ONE

The Way of the Righteous and the Wicked

I Blessed is the man¹
who ^awalks not in ^bthe counsel of the
wicked,
nor stands in ^cthe way of sinners,
nor ^dsits in ^ethe seat of ^fscoffers;
²but his ^gdelight is in the law² of the
LORD,
and on his ^hlaw he meditates day and
night.

- ⁶ “As for me, I have ^yset my King
on ^zZion, my ^aholy hill.”
- ⁷ I will tell of the decree:
The LORD said to me, ^b“You are my Son;
today I have begotten you.
- ⁸ Ask of me, and I will make the nations
your heritage,
and ^cthe ends of the earth your pos-
session.
- ⁹ You shall ^dbreak⁴ them with ^ea rod of iron
and dash them in pieces like ^fa pot-
ter’s vessel.”





Fr Joseph Gelineau SJ

PSALM 23 (Gk 22)

The LORD is my shepherd

The LORD as the shepherd who guides his people Israel is a recurrent image in the OT. The LORD also promises to send his own shepherd, his servant David, who will pasture the sheep. The image is taken up by Jesus, the good shepherd, who seeks out the lost sheep and will lay down his life for the sheep. The image is here combined with that of the LORD as host who prepares a generous banquet for his guests; the two images are combined also at the feeding of the five thousand (Mk 6:34–44). Jesus begins by taking pity on the crowds ‘because they were like sheep without a shepherd’ (Mk 6:34). Then he feeds them on the green pastures beside the restful waters, v. 2, of the Sea of Galilee.

Psalm Of David

→ Mk 6:34;
→ Jn 10:1

→ Mk 6:39par

The LORD is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me;
he revives my soul.

He guides me along the right path,
for the sake of his name.
Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death,
no evil would I fear, for you are with me.
Your crook and your staff will give me comfort.

You have prepared a table before me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed^a with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the LORD's own house shall I dwell
for the length of days unending.

=Ps 27
(Gk 26):4

a. This refers not to royal or messianic anointing, for which a different Hebr. verb is used, but to a gesture of hospitality to a guest, Ps 133 (Gk 132):2; Qo 9:8; Am 6:6; Lk 7:46.

Psalms and the experience of prayer

- Two basic aspects of prayer:
 - Listen to God; hear God's word to us
 - Our praise of God
- Prayers for all occasions:
 - Expressions of sorrow for failures
 - Ask God for help
 - Complain to God
- Psalms are expressions of human experience
 - They connect to our feelings
 - Help us pray for others who experience what the psalm expresses

*God mounts the throne
to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.*

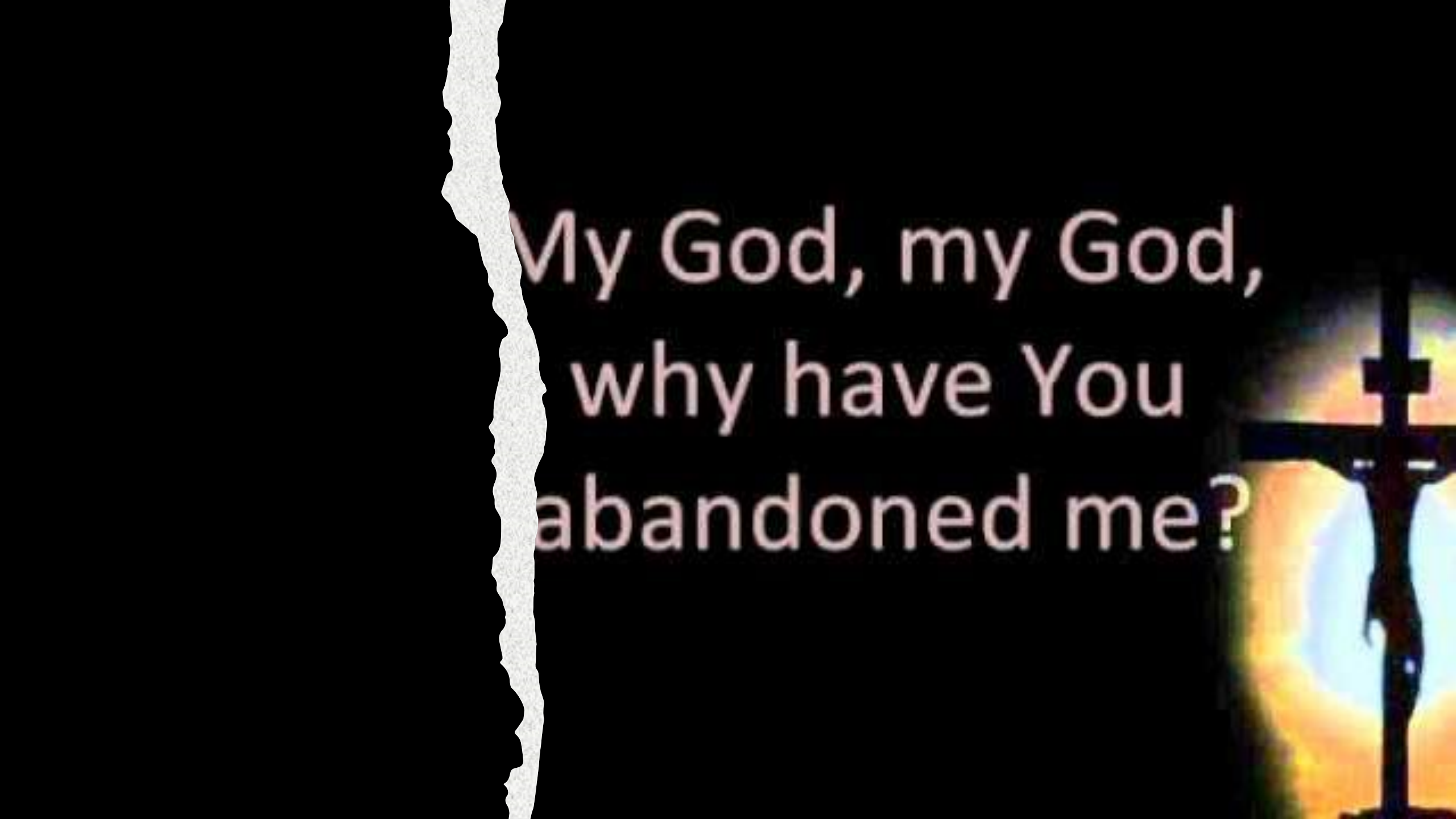


And now our
feet are standing
within your
gates,
O Jerusalem





Why was it sea, that you fled; that you turned back, Jordan, on your course?



My God, my God,
why have You
abandoned me?

The Lord is king,
let earth rejoice

All peoples see
his glory



Transfiguration of Our Lord



Like a tree
planted
beside
flowing
waters





What is man

that You are mindful of him,

& the son of man

that You care for him?

~ Psalm 8:4

O Lord,
our Lord,
how
majestic
is your
name
through all
the earth

Have mercy on
me, God, in your
kindness.

In your
compassion blot
out my offence





Praise him with the sound
of trumpet