

**THE PSALTER: A REVISED EDITION
OF THE SCOTTISH METRICAL
VERSION OF THE PSALMS, WITH
ADDITIONAL PSALM-VERSIONS**

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

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P R E F A C E.

IN this Psalter the Scottish Metrical Version of the Psalms has been revised.

The time, it was believed, had come for attempting to remove the blemishes which mar to some extent that admirable version. As it is now more than two hundred years old, several of its words and phrases, and not a few of its grammatical forms, have become antiquated; while, through the progress of Hebrew scholarship and the labours of critical expositors, some of its renderings have been shown to be inaccurate.

In the present work an attempt has been made to remove these blemishes by emendations of those portions where there are erroneous renderings, errors of syntax, faulty rhymes, obsolete words, or want of correspondence between the rhythm of sense and the rhythm of sound. And while the Old Version, out of regard for the place which it has in the memory and affections of the people, has been very tenderly dealt with, it is hoped that most of its graver blemishes have been removed, and that something has been done to make it a more faithful conveyance of the original and a more suitable vehicle of the Church's praise. The additional Psalm-Versions give a little more variety of metre than is to be found in the Scottish Version.

THE PSALMS.

PSALM I.

Dunfermline, 15.

- 1 **T**HAT man hath perfect blessedness
Who walketh not astray
In counsel of ungodly men,
Nor stands in sinners' way,
Nor sitteth in the scorner's chair:
2 But placeth his delight
Upon God's law, and meditates
On his law day and night.
- 3 He shall be like a tree that hath
Been planted by a river,
Which in its season yields its fruit,
And its leaf fadeth never:
And all he doth shall prosper well.
- 4 The wicked are not so;
But like they are unto the chaff,
Which wind drives to and fro.
- 5 In judgment therefore shall not stand
Such as ungodly are;
Nor in the assembly of the just
Shall wicked men appear.
- 6 Because the way of godly men
Unto the Lord is known;
Whereas the way of wicked men
Shall quite be overthrown.

PSALM II.

New London, 21.

- 1 **W**HY rage the heathen? and vain things
Why do the people mind?
- 2 Kings of the earth do set themselves,
And princes are combined,
To plot against the Lord, and his
Anointed, saying thus,
- 3 Let us asunder break their bands,
And cast their cords from us.
- 4 He that in heaven sits shall laugh;
The Lord shall scorn them all.
- 5 Then shall he speak to them in wrath,
In rage he vex them shall.
- 6 Yet I my King appointed have
Upon my holy hill;
On Zion mount his throne is set,
Established by my will.
- 7 The sure decree I will declare:
The Lord hath said to me,
Thou art mine only Son; this day
I have begotten thee.
- 8 Ask of me, and for heritage
The heathen I'll make thine;
And for possession I to thee
Will give earth's utmost line.
- 9 Thou with a rod of iron shalt
Beat down and break them all;
Them, as a potter's vessel, thou
Shalt dash in pieces small.
- 10 Now therefore, kings, be wise; be taught,
Ye judges of the earth:

- 11 Serve ye the Lord in holy fear;
Join trembling with your mirth.
- 12 Kiss ye the Son, lest in his ire
Ye perish from the way;
For suddenly his wrath may burn:
Blest all that on him stay.

PSALM III.

Eden, 17.

- 1 **O** LORD, how are my foes increased!
Against me many rise.
- 2 Many say of my soul, For him
In God no succour lies.
- 3 Yet thou my shield and glory art,
The uplifter of mine head.
- 4 I cried, and from his holy hill
The Lord me answer made.
- 5 I laid me down and slept, I waked;
For God sustained me.
- 6 I will not fear though thousands ten
Set round against me be.
- 7 Arise, O Lord; save me, my God;
For thou hast struck my foes
Upon the cheek; the wicked's teeth
Hast broken by thy blows.
- 8 Salvation surely doth belong
Unto the Lord alone;
Thy blessing, Lord, for evermore
Thy people is upon.

PSALM IV.

Abbey, 8.

- 1 **G**IVE ear unto me when I call,
God of my righteousness;

- Have mercy, hear my prayer; thou hast
 Enlarged me in distress.
- 2 O ye the sons of men! how long
 Will ye love vanities?
 How long my glory turn to shame,
 And will ye follow lies?
- 3 But know, that for himself the Lord
 The godly man doth choose:
 The Lord, when I on him do call,
 To hear will not refuse.
- 4 Fear, and sin not; talk with your heart
 On bed, and silent be.
- 5 Offerings present of righteousness,
 And in the Lord trust ye.
- 6 O who will show us any good?
 Is that which many say:
 But of thy countenance the light,
 Lord, lift on us alway.
- 7 Upon my heart bestowed by thee,
 More gladness I have found
 Than they, even then, when corn and wine
 Did most with them abound.
- 8 I will both lay me down in peace,
 And quiet sleep will take;
 Because thou only me to dwell
 In safety, Lord, dost make.

PSALM V.

Kilmarnock, 28.

- 1 **G**IVE ear unto my words, O Lord,
 My meditation weigh.
- 2 Hear my loud cry, my King, my God;
 For I to thee will pray.

- 3 Lord, thou shalt early hear my voice:
I early will direct
My prayer to thee; and, looking up,
An answer will expect.
- 4 For thou art not a God that doth
In wickedness delight;
Neither shall evil dwell with thee,
5 Nor fools stand in thy sight.
All evil-doers thou dost hate,
6 Cutt'st off that liars be:
The bloody and deceitful man
Abhorred is by thee.
- 7 But I into thy house will come
In thine abundant grace;
And I will worship in thy fear
Toward thy holy place.
- 8 Lord, lead me in thy righteousness,
For foes do lie in wait:
Thy way, wherein I am to walk,
Before my face make straight.
- 9 For in their mouth there is no truth,
Their inward part is vile;
Their throat's-an open sepulchre,
Their tongue is full of guile.
- 10 O God, condemn them; let them be
By their own counsel quelled:
Them for their many sins cast out,
For they 'gainst thee rebelled.
- 11 But let all joy that trust in thee,
For aye lift up their voice,
For them thou sav'st: in thee let all
That love thy name rejoice.