

Psalm 65 in Three Translations

Authorized Version (1611)

Psalm 65

1 Praise waiteth for thee, O God, in Zion: and unto thee shall the vow be performed.
2 O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come.
3 Iniquities prevail against me: *as for* our transgressions, thou shalt purge them away.
4 Blessed is *the man whom* thou choosest, and causest to approach *unto thee, that* he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, *even* of thy holy temple.
5 By terrible things in righteousness wilt thou answer us, O God of our salvation; *who art* the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of them that are afar off *upon* the sea:
6 Which by his strength setteth fast the mountains; *being* girded with power:
7 Which stilleth the noise of the seas, the noise of their waves, and the tumult of the people.
8 They also that dwell in the uttermost parts are afraid at thy tokens: thou makest the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice.
9 Thou visitest the earth, and waterest it: thou greatly enrichest it with the river of God, *which* is full of water: thou preparest them corn, when thou hast so provided for it.
10 Thou waterest the ridges thereof abundantly: thou settlest the furrows thereof: thou makest it soft with showers: thou blessest the springing thereof.
11 Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; and thy paths drop fatness.
12 They drop *upon* the pastures of the wilderness: and the little hills rejoice on every side.
13 The pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys also are covered over with corn; they shout for joy, they also sing.

New American Bible (1991)

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1 For the leader. A psalm of David. A song.
2 To you we owe our hymn of praise, O God on Zion; To you our vows must be fulfilled,
3 you who hear our prayers. To you all flesh must come
4 with its burden of wicked deeds. We are overcome by our sins; only you can pardon them.
5 Happy the chosen ones you bring to dwell in your courts. May we be filled with the good things of your house, the blessings of your holy temple!
6 You answer us with awesome deeds of justice, O God our savior, The hope of all the ends of the earth and of far distant islands.
7 You are robed in power, you set up the mountains by your might.
8 You still the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples.
9 Distant peoples stand in awe of your marvels; east and west you make resound with joy.
10 You visit the earth and water it, make it abundantly fertile. God's stream is filled with water; with it you supply the world with grain. Thus do you prepare the earth:
11 you drench plowed furrows, and level their ridges. With showers you keep the ground soft, blessing its young sprouts.
12 You adorn the year with your bounty; your paths drip with fruitful rain.
13 The untilled meadows also drip; the hills are robed with joy.
14 The pastures are clothed with flocks, the valleys blanketed with grain; they cheer and sing for joy.

1 [Psalm 65] The community, aware of its unworthiness (Psalm 65:3-4), gives thanks for divine bounty (Psalm 65:5), a bounty resulting from God's creation victory (Psalm 65:6-9). At God's touch the earth comes alive with vegetation and flocks (Psalm 65:10-13).

2 [2] Vows: the Israelites were accustomed to promising sacrifices in the temple if their prayers were heard.

3 [3] To you all flesh must come: all must have recourse to God's mercy.

4 [6] Awesome deeds: the acts of creating--installing mountains, taming seas, restraining nations (Psalm 65:7-8)--that are visible worldwide (Psalm 65:6, 9).

5 [9-13] Apparently a description of the agricultural year, beginning with the first fall rains that soften the hard sun-baked soil (Psalm 65:9-10).

6 [9] God's stream: the fertile waters of the earth derive from God's fertile waters in the heavenly world.

7 [12] Paths: probably the tracks of God's storm chariot dropping rain upon earth.

New English Bible (1972)

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1-2 We owe thee praise, O God, in Zion; thou hearest prayer, vows shall be paid to thee.
3 All men shall lay their guilt before thee:
our sins are too heavy for us; only thou canst blot them out.
4 Happy is the man of thy choice, whom thou dost bring to dwell in thy courts; let us enjoy the blessing of thy house, thy holy temple.
5 By deeds of terror answer us with victory,
O God of our deliverance, in whom men trust from the ends of the earth and far-off seas;
6 thou art girded with strength, and by thy might dost fix the mountains in their place,
7 dost calm the rage of the seas and their raging waves.^a
8 The dwellers at the ends of the earth hold thy signs in awe; thou makest morning and evening sing aloud in triumph.
9 Thou dost visit the earth and give it abundance,
as often as thou dost enrich it with the waters of heaven, brimming in their channels, providing rain^b for men. For this is thy provision for it,
10 watering its furrows, levelling its ridges, softening it with showers and blessing its growth.
11 Thou dost crown the year with thy good gifts and the palm-trees drip with sweet juice;
12 the pastures in the wild are rich with blessing and the hills wreathed in happiness,
13 the meadows are clothed with sheep and the valleys mantled in corn, so that they shout, they break into song.

^a *Prob.* rdg.; Heb. *adds* and tumult of people. ^b Or corn.