Responsive Reading : Psalm 59

Deliver me from my enemies, O my God. Protect me from those who rise up against me.

**Deliver me from those who work evil, and save me from bloodthirsty men.**

For behold, they lie in wait for my life; fierce men stir up strife against me.

**For no transgression or sin of mine, O LORD, for no fault of mine, they run and make ready.**

Awake, come to meet me, and see! You, LORD God of hosts, are God of Israel.

**Rouse yourself to punish all the nations; spare none of those who treacherously plot evil.**

Each evening they come back, howling like dogs and prowling about the city.

**There they are, bellowing with their mouths with swords in their lips for “Who,” they think, “will hear us?”**

But you, O LORD, laugh at them. You hold all the nations in derision.

**O my Strength, I will watch for you, for you, O God, are my fortress.**

My God in his steadfast love will meet me. God will let me look in triumph on my enemies.

**Kill them not, lest my people forget. Make them totter by your power and bring them down, O Lord, our shield!**

For the sin of their mouths, the words of their lips, let them be trapped in their pride.

**For the cursing and lies that they utter, consume them in wrath.**

Consume them till they are no more, that they may know that God rules over Jacob to the ends of the earth.

**Each evening they come back, howling like dogs and prowling about the city.**

They wander about for food and growl if they do not get their fill.

**But I will sing of your strength. I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning.**

For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.

**O my Strength, I will sing praises to you, for you, O God, are my fortress, the God who shows me steadfast love.**