

COMPARISON OF FOUR DIFFERENT TRANSLATIONS OF PSALM 22

New American Bible	Jerusalem Bible	RSV	Douay Rheims
<p>2My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? [REFRAIN] Why so far from my call for help, from my cries of anguish? 3My God, I call by day, but you do not answer; by night, but I have no relief. 4Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the glory of Israel. 5In you our fathers trusted; they trusted and you rescued them. 6To you they cried out and they escaped; in you they trusted and were not disappointed. 7But I am a worm, not a man, scorned by men, despised by the people. 8All who see me mock me; they curl their lips and jeer; they shake their heads at me: 9"He relied on the LORD—let him deliver him; if he loves him, let him rescue him." 10For you drew me forth from the womb, made me safe at my mother's breasts. 11Upon you I was thrust from the womb; since my mother bore me you are my God. 12Do not stay far from me, for trouble is near, and there is no one to help. 13Many bulls* surround me; fierce bulls of Bashan* encircle me. 14They open their mouths against me, lions that rend and roar. 15Like water my life drains away; all my bones are disjointed. My heart has become like wax, it melts away within me. 16As dry as a potsherd is my throat; my tongue cleaves to my palate; you lay me in the dust of death.* 17Dogs surround me; a pack of evildoers closes in on me. They have pierced my hands and my feet 18I can count all my bones. They stare at me and gloat; 19they divide my garments among them; For my clothing they cast lots. 20But you, LORD, do not stay far off; my strength, come quickly to help me. 21Deliver my soul from the sword, my life from the grip of the dog. 22Save me from the lion's mouth, my poor life from the horns of wild bulls. 23Then I will proclaim your name</p>	<p>My God, my God, why have you deserted me? [REFRAIN] How far from saving me, the words I groan! I call all day, my God, but you never answer, all night long I call and cannot rest. Yet, Holy One, you who make your home in the praises of Israel, in you our fathers put their trust, they trusted and you rescued them; they called to you for help and they were saved, they never trusted you in vain. Yet here am I, now more worm than man, scorn of mankind, jest of the people, all who see me jeer at me, they toss their heads and sneer, "He relied on Yahweh, let Yahweh save him! If Yahweh is his friend, let Him rescue him!" Yet you drew me out of the womb, you entrusted me to my mother's breasts; placed on your lap from my birth, from my mother's womb you have been my God. Do not stand aside: trouble is near, I have no one to help me! A herd of bulls surrounds me, strong bulls of Bashan close in on me; their jaws are agape for me, like lions tearing and roaring. I am like water draining away, my bones are all disjointed, my heart is like wax, melting inside me; my palate is drier than a potsherd and my tongue is stuck to my jaw. A pack of dogs surrounds me, a gang of villains closes me in; they tie me hand and foot and leave me lying in the dust of death. I can count every one of my bones, and there they glare at me, gloating; they divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothes. Do not stand aside, Yahweh. O my strength, come quickly to my help; rescue my soul from the sword, my dear life from the paw of the dog, save me from the lion's mouth, my poor soul from the wild bulls' horns! Then I shall proclaim your name to my brothers, praise you in full assembly: you who fear Yahweh, praise him!</p>	<p>1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? [REFRAIN] Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? 2 O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest. 3 Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. 4 In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them. 5 To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame. 6 But I am a worm, and not human; scorned by others, and despised by the people. 7 All who see me mock at me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads; 8 "Commit your cause to the LORD; let him deliver — let him rescue the one in whom he delights!" 9 Yet it was you who took me from the womb; you kept me safe on my mother's breast. 10 On you I was cast from my birth, and since my mother bore me you have been my God. 11 Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help. 12 Many bulls encircle me, strong bulls of Bashan surround me; 13 they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion. 14 I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; 15 my mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death. 16 For dogs are all around me; a company of evildoers encircles me. My hands and feet have shriveled; 17 I can count all my bones. They stare and gloat over me; 18 they divide my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots. 19 But you, O LORD, do not be far away! O my help, come quickly to my aid! 20 Deliver my soul from the sword, my life from the power of the dog! 21 Save me from the mouth of the lion!</p>	<p>O God my God, look upon me: why hast thou forsaken me? [REFRAIN] Far from my salvation are the words of my sins. [3] O my God, I shall cry by day, and thou wilt not hear: and by night, and it shall not be reputed as folly in me. [4] But thou dwellest in the holy place, the praise of Israel. [5] In thee have our fathers hoped: they have hoped, and thou hast delivered them. [6] They cried to thee, and they were saved: they trusted in thee, and were not confounded. [7] But I am a worm, and no man: the reproach of men, and the outcast of the people. [8] All they that saw me have laughed me to scorn: they have spoken with the lips, and wagged the head. [9] He hoped in the Lord, let him deliver him: let him save him, seeing he delighteth in him. [10] For thou art he that hast drawn me out of the womb: my hope from the breasts of my mother. [11] I was cast upon thee from the womb. From my mother's womb thou art my God, [12] Depart not from me. For tribulation is very near: for there is none to help me. [13] Many calves have surrounded me: fat bulls have besieged me. [14] They have opened their mouths against me, as a lion ravening and roaring. [15] I am poured out like water; and all my bones are scattered. My heart is become like wax melting in the midst of my bowels. [16] My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue hath cleaved to my jaws: and thou hast brought me down into the dust of death. [17] For many dogs have encompassed me: the council of the malignant hath besieged me. They have dug my hands and feet. [18] They have numbered all my bones. And they have looked and stared upon me. [19] They parted my garments amongst them; and upon my vesture they cast lots. [20] But thou, O Lord, remove not thy help to a distance from me; look towards my defence. [21] Deliver, O God, my soul from the sword: my only one from the hand of the dog. [22] Save me from the lion's mouth; and my lowness from the horns of the unicorns. [23] I will declare thy name to my brethren: in the midst of the church will I praise thee. [24] Ye that fear the Lord, praise him: all ye the seed of Jacob, glorify him. [25] Let all the seed of Israel fear him: because he hath not slighted nor despised the supplication of the poor man. Neither hath he turned</p>

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<p>to my brethren; in the assembly I will praise you: 24“You who fear the LORD, give praise! All descendants of Jacob, give honor; show reverence, all descendants of Israel!</p> <p>25For he has not spurned or disdained the misery of this poor wretch, Did not turn away⁷ from me, but heard me when I cried out. 26I will offer praise in the great assembly; [REFRAIN] my vows I will fulfill before those who fear him. 27The poor will eat their fill; those who seek the LORD will offer praise. May your hearts enjoy life forever!” 28All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD; All the families of nations will bow low before him. 29For kingship belongs to the LORD, the ruler over the nations. 30All who sleep in the earth will bow low before God; All who have gone down into the dust will kneel in homage. 31And I will live for the LORD; my descendants will serve you. 32The generation to come will be told of the Lord, that they may proclaim to a people yet unborn the deliverance you have brought.</p>	<p>Entire race of Jacob, glorify him! Entire race of Israel, revere him!</p> <p>For he has not despised or disdained the poor man in his poverty, has not hidden his face from him, but has answered him when he called.</p> <p>You are the theme of my praise in the Great Assembly, I perform my vows in the presence of those who fear him. The poor will receive as much as they want to eat. Those who seek Yahweh will praise him. Long life to their hearts! The whole earth, from end to end, will remember and come back to Yahweh; all the families of the nations will bow down before him. For Yahweh reigns, the ruler of nations! Before him all the prosperous of the earth will bow down, before him will bow all who go down to the dust. And my soul will live for him, my children will serve him; men will proclaim the Lord to generations still to come, his righteousness to a people yet unborn. All this he has done.</p>	<p>From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me. 22 I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you: 23 You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!</p> <p>24 For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him. 25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him. 26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever! 27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. 28 For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations. 29 To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him. 30 Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, 31 and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.</p>	<p>away his face from me: and when I cried to him he heard me. [26] With thee is my praise in a great church: I will pay my vows in the sight of them that fear him. [27] The poor shall eat and shall be filled: and they shall praise the Lord that seek him: their hearts shall live for ever and ever. [28] All the ends of the earth shall remember, and shall be converted to the Lord: And all the kindreds of the Gentiles shall adore in his sight. [29] For the kingdom is the Lord's; and he shall have dominion over the nations. [30] All the fat ones of the earth have eaten and have adored: all they that go down to the earth shall fall before him. [31] And to him my soul shall live: and my seed shall serve him. [32] There shall be declared to the Lord a generation to come: and the heavens shall shew forth his justice to a people that shall be born, which the Lord hath made.</p>

Legend: **Verses for Palm Sunday**

Verses for the 5th Sunday of Easter Year B

Each year on Palm Sunday we rehear the striking words “My God, My God, why have you abandoned me?” I would propose for reflection that the many iterations of reflections on this one verse have trapped us into thinking a quite narrow and certain way. A case in point: if we say the word “*prodigal*,” we immediately add the word “*son*.” However, the father is much more lavish and generous in a substantial way than the younger son’s wild spending.

The real point in the use of the psalm comes from an understanding of how those who heard it said would have understood. Jesus was preaching from the cross. He was using the words his Father spoke through him [THE WORD] to proclaim his mission to the last breath. The psalms are among the earliest scripture. By and large they were handed over orally. If a person heard the first words of a PSALM it would trigger the recollection of the **whole psalm**. So, the verses of Ps 22 on Palm Sunday lead us to the verses used here [Easter 5B] as well and those of today looking back to Palm Sunday—certainly much more than a lament and how “abandoned” Jesus felt. We are not abandoned, we are saved.