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Psalm 61: To the leader: with stringed instruments. Of David

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Psalm 61

To the leader: with stringed instruments. Of David

(NRSV)

- ¹ Hear my cry, O God;
listen to my prayer.**
- ² From the end of the earth I call to you,
when my heart is faint.**
- Lead me to the rock
that is higher than I;**
- ³ for you are my refuge,
a strong tower against the enemy.**
- ⁴ Let me abide in your tent forever,
find refuge under the shelter of your wings. *Selah***
- ⁵ For you, O God, have heard my vows;
you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name.**
- ⁶ Prolong the life of the king;
may his years endure to all generations!**
- ⁷ May he be enthroned forever before God;
appoint steadfast love and faithfulness to watch over him!**
- ⁸ So I will always sing praises to your name,
as I pay my vows day after day.**

Psalm 61 is the prayer for security and assurance of one who addresses God “from the ends of the earth,” that is, far away from Jerusalem, perhaps even from exile; and that causes him heaviness of heart (verse 2). He longs to be in the House of God (verse 4). He is confident that God has heard his vows and will grant him the blessings reserved for those who fear the name of the LORD (verse 5). He prays for the king, who bears the messianic promises as the Son of David, and for his dynasty over the generations (verses 6-7). A final vow of continual praise to the name of the LORD (verse 8) ends the Psalm.

St. Paul teaches us that in Christ Jesus, *the* Son of David, we who were far off have been brought near in the blood of Christ. The prayer of Psalm 61 has been answered, and our praying of Psalm 61 takes place in that fulfillment.

Prayer to accompany Psalm 61:

Lord Jesus, love and truth of the Father, you came to earth to relieve the pain of our exile; you took our weakness as your own. When our hearts grow faint, uphold us until we stand with you before God and praise your name forever. Amen.