*Psalm 73*

***Refrain:****In the Lord God have I made my refuge.*

1Truly, God is loving to Israel, *♦*
to those who are pure in heart.

2Nevertheless, my feet were almost gone; *♦*
my steps had well-nigh slipped.

3For I was envious of the proud; *♦*
I saw the wicked in such prosperity;

4For they suffer no pains *♦*
and their bodies are sleek and sound;

5They come to no misfortune like other folk; *♦*
nor are they plagued as others are;

6Therefore pride is their necklace *♦*
and violence wraps them like a cloak.

7Their iniquity comes from within; *♦*
the conceits of their hearts overflow. *R*

8They scoff, and speak only of evil; *♦*
they talk of oppression from on high.

9They set their mouth against the heavens, *♦*
and their tongue ranges round the earth;

10And so the people turn to them *♦*
and find in them no fault.

11They say, ‘How should God know? *♦*
Is there knowledge in the Most High?’

12Behold, these are the wicked; *♦*
ever at ease, they increase their wealth.

13Is it in vain that I cleansed my heart *♦*
and washed my hands in innocence?

14All day long have I been stricken *♦*
and chastened every morning.

15If I had said, ‘I will speak as they do,’ *♦*
I should have betrayed the generation of your children. *R*

16Then thought I to understand this, *♦*
but it was too hard for me,

17Until I entered the sanctuary of God *♦*
and understood the end of the wicked:

18How you set them in slippery places; *♦*
you cast them down to destruction.

19How suddenly do they come to destruction, *♦*
perish and come to a fearful end!

20As with a dream when one awakes, *♦*
so, Lord, when you arise you will despise their image.

21When my heart became embittered *♦*
and I was pierced to the quick,

22I was but foolish and ignorant; *♦*
I was like a brute beast in your presence. *R*

23Yet I am always with you; *♦*
you hold me by my right hand.

24You will guide me with your counsel *♦*
and afterwards receive me with glory.

25Whom have I in heaven but you? *♦*
And there is nothing upon earth that I desire
in comparison with you.

26Though my flesh and my heart fail me, *♦*
God is the strength of my heart and my portion for ever.

27Truly, those who forsake you will perish; *♦*
you will put to silence the faithless who betray you.

28But it is good for me to draw near to God; *♦*
in the Lord God have I made my refuge,
that I may tell of all your works.

***Refrain:****In the Lord God have I made my refuge.*

***All*Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**