

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13ⁱⁱⁱ

¹You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

²You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
and blotted out all their sins.

⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those who turn their
hearts to him.

⁹Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

ⁱⁱⁱ About Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

This lament seems to have been composed for a particular situation of affliction (vv. 4-6), and then to have passed into general use. Thanksgiving is given for the return from exile (vv. 1-3), and the Lord's continued help is requested. The Lord's answer comes (vv. 8-13), perhaps as an oracle uttered by a prophet or priest. Verse 11 beautifully reassures the people of God's gracious care. These four qualities—steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, and peace—spring from God and unite to work for the good of God's people.