

Psalm 25:1-9ⁱⁱⁱ

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

²Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

³Show me your ways, O LORD, *
and teach me your paths.

⁴Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁵Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.

⁶Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O
LORD.

⁷Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

⁸He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.

⁹All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

ⁱⁱⁱ About the Psalm: Psalm 25:1-9

This is an acrostic psalm, each verse beginning with a successive letter of the alphabet. In the form of a personal lament, it contains the usual cry for help (vv. 1-3), plea for guidance (vv. 4-5), expression of trust (vv. 6-15) and presentation of the psalmist's plight (vv. 17-19) in a prayer of vindication (vv. 16-21).

In verses 4-5, the psalmist asks God to teach him truth. He recognizes that his adversaries, both external (vv. 2, 19) and internal (vv. 7, 11, 17-18), are strong enough to triumph over him. His fear of the Lord compels him to acknowledge that God alone can make him into a person of true righteousness (v. 9), thus able to enjoy "the friendship of the Lord" (v. 14).