

## Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18<sup>iii</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \*  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

<sup>2</sup>In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \*  
stir up your strength and come to help us.

<sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

<sup>4</sup>O LORD God of hosts, \*  
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?

<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears; \*  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

<sup>6</sup>You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \*  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

<sup>16</sup>Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, \*  
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

<sup>17</sup>And so will we never turn away from you; \*  
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

<sup>18</sup>Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

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### <sup>iii</sup> About Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

This lament of the nation for deliverance probably comes from the northern kingdom, whose tribes are enumerated. The “Shepherd of Israel” (the only occurrence of this phrase in the psalms) is pictured as enthroned over the ark between the wings of the cherubim. The psalm’s refrain (vv. 3, 7, 19) echoes the blessing given by Aaron in Numbers 6:24-26.

The image of Israel as the Lord’s vine is frequent in the Old Testament (Isaiah 5:1-7, 27:2-6; Jeremiah 2:21; Ezekiel 15:1-8; Hosea 10:1). It was used as an image of Jesus, the Messiah in the gospels (Matthew 21:33-46; Mark 12:1-9; Luke 20:9-19). The “one you made strong” refers either to the king or to Israel personified.