Refrain: Search me out, O God, and know my heart.

1 O Lord, you have searched me out and known me;
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

2 You mark out my journeys and my resting place
and are acquainted with all my ways.

3 For there is not a word on my tongue,
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

4 You encompass me behind and before
and lay your hand upon me.

5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
so high that I cannot attain it. [R]

6 Where can I go then from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?

7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there;
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

8 If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

9 Even there your hand shall lead me,
your right hand hold me fast.

10 If I say, Surely the darkness will cover me,
and the light around me turn to night,

11 Even darkness is no darkness with you;
the night is as clear as the day;
darkness and light to you are both alike. [R]

12 For you yourself created my inmost parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

13 I thank you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
marvellous are your works, my soul knows well.

14 My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was made in secret
and woven in the depths of the earth.

15 Your eyes beheld my form, as yet unfinished;
already in your book were all my members written,
when as yet there was none of them.

16 How deep are your counsels to me, O God!
How great is the sum of them!

17 If I count them, they are more in number than the sand,
and at the end, I am still in your presence. [R]

18 O that you would slay the wicked, O God!
that the bloodthirsty might depart from me!

19 They speak against you with wicked intent;
They speak against you with wicked intent;
your enemies take up your name for evil.

21 Do I not oppose those, O Lord, who oppose you?

Do I not abhor those who rise up against you?

22 I hate them with a perfect hatred; they have become my own enemies also.

23 Search me out, O God, and know my heart; try me and examine my thoughts.

24 See if there is any way of wickedness in me and lead me in the way everlasting.

Refrain: Search me out, O God, and know my heart.

Creator God,

may every breath we take be for your glory,

may every footstep show you as our way,

that, trusting in your presence in this world,

we may, beyond this life, still be with you

where you are alive and reign

for ever and ever.

Common Worship: Daily Prayer, material from which is included here,
is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2005 and published by Church House Publishing.
Join us in Daily Prayer

Buy the Book

Daily Prayer is available from Church House Publishing

Download the Reflections on the Psalms app

Source URL: https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/daily-prayer/psalter/psalm-139