129 To Stretch Out (*Extendere*)

To stretch out. God stretches out his hand to man.

First, for teaching the ignorant just as the sun sends out its rays for illuminating, Isai. 65[:2]: “I have spread forth my hands all the day to an unbelieving people.”

Second, for recalling those out of the way, Prov. 1[:24]: “I stretched out my hand, and there was none that regarded.”

Third, for making miracles, just as the tree sends out branches, Act. 4[:29-30]: “Grant unto your servants, that with all confidence they may speak by stretching forth your hand to cures.”

Fourth, for bestowing benefits just as the rich bestow on the poor, Matt. 20[:34]: “And Jesus having compassion on them,” extended his hand, “touched” and they were cleansed.

Fifth, for rewarding the good and punishing the evil, Psal. [54:21]: “He has stretched forth his hand to repay.” Exod. 15[:12]: “You stretched forth your hand, and the earth swallowed them.” Jer. 15[:6]: “I will stretch out my hand against you, and I will destroy you.”