



I WILL PRAISE

Responsive Devotion

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. (Psalm 100:4)

All: "I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify Your name forever." (Psalm 86:12)

Hymn: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" (LW #444, TLH #39, LBW #543)

Leader: Not a day goes by that I do not know the wonder of God's love for me. All my needs have been supplied from His generous hand. I need nothing—I am rich in His love.

All: "I will praise You, O Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all Your wonders. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High." (Psalm 9:1-2)

Leader: Each day I am faced with decisions that must be made—the answer is not always obvious and I am afraid of choosing wrongly, so I pray.

All: "I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me." (Psalm 16:7)

Leader: Things happen in my life—I lose my job; I am forced to move to a new location; my car breaks down; I argue with my husband, my children; my friends don't have time for me. Life becomes a challenge.

All: "Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope I God, for I will yet praise Him, my Saviour and My God." (Psalm 42:5)

Leader: How blessed I am! In my baptism, God claimed me as His own child. In His Holy Supper, He comes to me in the bread and wine. He reveals Himself to me through His Word.

All: "In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me?" (Psalm 56:4)

Leader: Life is such a precious gift from God. How exciting is life at all ages! The newborn has so much to discover, the senior citizen has so much to remember.

All: "I will praise You as long as I live, and in Your name I will lift up my hands." (Psalm 63:4) "I will praise the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live." (Psalm 146:2)

Leader: Music fuels my emotions—calming me when troubled, uplifting me when sad, propelling me into action when I feel lethargic, providing rhythm when I want dance. I can sing alone or I can sing along with you. Music invites companionship, celebration.

All: "I will praise God's name in song and glorify Him with thanksgiving." (Psalm 69:30)

Leader: There are days that I do not want to read the newspaper, I do not want to watch television or listen to the radio—the news is too depressing. Society is failing me; my world is falling apart. But then I pause and I remember—God is my Rock, my Refuge!

All: "I will always have hope; I will praise You more and more. My mouth will tell of Your righteousness, of your salvation all day long." (Psalm 71:14-15a)

Leader: Daily I sin. How well I relate to the words of Paul who said, "For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing." (Romans 7:19) But God in His mercy and His grace forgives me for Jesus' sake. He forgives my sin and He restores and renews me.

All: I will ... **"Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever."** (Psalm 106:1)

Leader: God is the Creator of all creatures, of all the peoples, of all the lands; but not everyone has heard the good news of forgiveness, the promise of eternal life. God has given me the privilege of broadcasting this message.

All: **"I will praise You, O Lord, among the nations; I will sing of You among the peoples."** (Psalm 108:3)

Leader: I look at my hands, my feet. I count my fingers, my toes. I marvel at their complex engineering. The workings of my body are a mystery. I know that I'm God's workmanship.

All: **"I (will) praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I know that full well."** (Psalm 139:14)

Leader: The eagle soars majestically to the highest heights and the rodent digs into the depth of the earth. The color of the butterfly defies description. The puppy tumbles, tripping over unsteady legs. The mother tenderly watches over and feeds her newborn as the father stands protectively by. All works of nature are God's handiwork.

All: **"My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord. Let every creature praise His holy name forever and ever."** (Psalm 145:21)

Leader: Praise is an action verb. Praise is not silent. Praising my God who has given me life, who has redeemed me and who keeps me in the one true Christian faith, is contagious. I praise my God and you, too, must lift up your hands and "Praise the Lord."

All:

"Praise the Lord.

Praise God for His sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty heavens.

Praise Him for His acts of power; praise Him for His surpassing greatness.

Praise Him with the sounding of the trumpet,

Praise Him with the harp and lyre,

Praise Him with tambourine and dancing,

Praise Him with the strings and flute,

Praise Him with the clash of cymbals; praise Him with resounding cymbals.

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord." (Psalm 150)