



## LORD, HEAR MY CRY!

A Responsive Reading for Mature Christians

Reader 1: Lord, I am growing old. My body is aging, my joints are stiff; and my strength is withering like a plant without nourishment.

Reader 2: "The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming, 'The Lord is upright; he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him.'" (Psalm 92:12-15)

HYMN: The man is ever blest Who shuns the sinners' ways,  
Among their counsels never stands. Nor takes the scorners' place,

But makes the Law of God His study and delight  
Amid the labours of the day And watches of the night.

He like a tree shall thrive, With waters near the root;  
Fresh as the leaf his name shall live. His works are heav'nly fruit.

(TLH 414, stanzas 1-3)

Reader 1: Lord, my strength is failing and I can no longer pursue the activities of younger years. Continue to be my Strength and Stay; do not forsake me.

Reader 2: "I will lift up my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip – he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep." (Psalm 121:1-4)

HYMN: My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Saviour divine.  
Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away;  
Oh, let me from this day Be wholly Thine!

May Thy rich grace impart Strength to my fainting heart. My zeal inspire!  
As Thou has died for me. Oh, may my love to Thee  
Pure, warm, and changeless be, A living fire!

(TLH 394, stanzas 1 & 2)

Reader 1: Lord, I feel disheartened and depressed. I feel restless and anxious. Where shall I turn for peace?

Reader 2: "Why are you downcast O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Saviour and my God." (Psalm 42:11)

HYMN: What a Friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit. Oh, what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged. Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a Friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness, Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden; Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Saviour, still our Refuge, Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee. Thou wilt find a solace there.

(TLH 457)

Reader 1: Lord, at times I feel lost and frightened. I do not know where to turn for refuge.  
Where can I find security and peace?

Reader 2: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging... The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. (Psalm 46:1-3, 7)

HYMN: A mighty Fortress is our God, A trusty Shield and Weapon  
He helps us free from ev'ry need That hath us now ov'raken.  
The old evil foe Now means deadly woe  
Deep guile and great might Are his dread arms in fight;  
On earth is not his equal.

The Word they still shall let remain Nor any thanks have for it;  
He's by our side upon the plain With His good gifts and Spirit.  
And take they our life, Goods, fame, child, and wife;  
Let these all be gone. They yet have nothing won;  
The Kingdom ours remaineth.

(TLH 262, stanzas 1 & 4)

Reader 1: Lord, I am overcome with pain. In my suffering, I cry out to you for deliverance. My pain and suffering allow me no rest.

Reader 2: "Answer me when I call to you, O my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; be merciful to me and hear my prayer... You have filled my heart with greater joy than when their grain and new wine abound. I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O Lord make me dwell in safety." (Psalm 4:1, 2, 7 & 8)

HYMN: Lord Jesus, who dost love me,  
Oh, spread Thy wings above me  
And shield me from alarm!  
Though evil would assail me,  
Thy mercy will not fail me:  
I rest in Thy protecting arm.

(TLH 554, stanza 5)

Reader 1: Lord, I feel the weight of my sins. They are a heavy burden to me. Only in You can I find forgiveness and mercy.

Reader 2: "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me." (Psalm 51:10-12)

HYMN: Before Thee, God, who knows all,  
With grief and shame I prostrate fall.  
I see my sins against Thee, Lord,  
The sins of thought, of deed, and word.  
The press me sore; I cry to Thee:  
O God be merciful to me!

O Jesus, let Thy precious blood  
Be to my soul a cleansing flood.  
Turn not, O Lord, Thy guest away,  
But grant that justified I may  
Go to my house at peace with Thee:  
O God, be merciful to me!

(TLH 318, stanzas 1 & 3)

Reader 1: Lord, I felt so unimportant and useless. Why do you continue to let me live? What is the purpose of a long life?

Reader 2: "Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, O God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your might to all who are to come." (Psalm 71:18)

HYMN: Let children hear the mighty deeds Which God performed of old,  
Which in our younger years we say And which our fathers told.

Make unto them His glories known, His works of pow'r and grace;  
And we'll convey His wonders down Thro' ev'ry rising race. (TLH 629, stanzas 1 & 2)

Reader 1: Lord, thank you for the beauty of Your creation. Thank you for the many gifts which You have granted me. Every day You shower new blessings upon my head.

Reader 2: "My heart is steadfast, O God; I will sing and make music with all my soul. Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn. I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples. For great is your love, higher than the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies." (Psalm 108:1-5)

HYMN: Ev'ry morning mercies new Fall as fresh as morning dew;  
Every morning let us pay Tribute with the early day;  
For Thy mercies, Lord, are sure. Thy compassion doth endure,  
Still the greatness of Thy love Daily doth our sins remove;  
Daily, far as east from west, Lifts the burden from the breast;  
Gives unbought to those who pray Strength to stand in evil day.

(TLH 537, stanzas 1 & 2)

Reader 1: Lord, at times I feel as though I am walking in the dark. I stumble and fall – physically and spiritually. Thank you for the gift of Your holy, precious Word which enlightens my path and reveals Your endless love for me through Jesus Christ, my Saviour.

Reader 2: "I seek you with all my heart, do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you... Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." (Psalm 119:10, 11 & 105)

HYMN: How precious is the Book Divine, By inspiration giv'n!  
Bright as a lamp its doctrines shine To guide our souls to heav'n.  
It's light, descending from above Our gloomy world to cheer,  
Displays a Saviour's boundless love And brings His glories near.  
(TLH 285, stanzas 1 & 2)

Reader 1: Lord, although I am weak and frail, I can walk in Your strength and light, for You are my Salvation. Through the death and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, You have redeemed me from sin, death and Satan. I have nothing to fear!

Reader 2: "The Lord is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1)

HYMN: In ev'ry condition, in sickness, in health,  
In poverty's vale, or abounding in wealth,  
At home and abroad, on the land, on the sea –  
The Lord, the Almighty, thy strength e'er shall be.

"Fear not, I am with thee, oh, be not dismayed;  
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand."  
(TLH 427, stanzas 2 & 3)

Reader 1: Lord, I remember that I am Your child through Baptism. Because Christ died for me and rose again, I, too, shall have eternal life in the mansion You are preparing for me. Therefore, I hope and trust in You, my Saviour and my God!

Reader 2: "Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord." (Psalm 31:24)

HYMN: My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame But wholly lean on Jesus' name.  
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found,  
Clothed in His righteousness alone, Faultless to stand before the throne.  
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.  
(TLH 370, stanzas 1 & 4)

Reader 1: Lord, I know my days on this earth are numbered, but I also know You are my Good Shepherd. Because I am saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, You will lead me through the valley off the shadow of death to my heavenly home. I trust in You to lead me safely there!

Reader 2: "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of thee Lord forever." (Psalm 23)

HYMN: Jesus Christ, my sure Defense and my Saviour, ever liveth;  
Knowing this, my confidence Rests upon the hope it giveth  
Though the night of death be fraught Still with many an anxious tho't.  
Jesus, my Redeemer, lives; I, too, unto life shall waken.

Endless joy my Saviour gives; Shall my courage, then be shaken?  
Shall I fear, or could the Head Rise and leave His members dead?  
Glorified, I shall anew With this flesh then be enshrouded;  
In this body I shall fiew God, my Lord, with eyes unclouded;  
In this flesh I then shall see Jesus Christ eternally. (TLH 206, stanzas 2 & 5)

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