

PSALM 31

God is faithful and just to save those who in time of trouble look up to him alone for help. The Christian, like his blessed Master, is besieged by many and powerful enemies. He must expect troubles, vexation, and afflictions in this life. But under such trials the soul is made cheerful by reflecting that God knows our adversities, that our time is in his hands, and that he will in due season send us that deliverance which to him seems most suitable for us. Meanwhile, let us have recourse to the prayer of faith. Let us seek support, and we shall find it. Let us knock for mercy, and the door will be opened. Peace of conscience, the comforts of the Spirit, and the hope of future glory will dispel our gloom, and our heart will be established by trust in the Lord.

For the choir director. A Psalm of David.

- 1 In you, O YAHWEH, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me!
- 2 Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily!
Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me!
- 3 For you are my rock and my fortress;
and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me;
- 4 you take me out of the net they have hidden for me, for you are my refuge.
- 5 Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O YAHWEH, faithful God.
- 6 I hate those who pay regard to worthless idols, but I trust in YAHWEH.
- 7 I will rejoice and be glad in your steadfast love, because you have seen my affliction;
you have known the distress of my soul,
- 8 and you have not delivered me into the hand of the enemy;
you have set my feet in a broad place.
- 9 Be gracious to me, O YAHWEH, for I am in distress; my eye is wasted from grief;
my soul and my body also.
- 10 For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing;
my strength fails because of my iniquity, and my bones waste away.
- 11 Because of all my adversaries I have become a reproach, especially to my neighbors,
and an object of dread to my acquaintances;
those who see me in the street flee from me.
- 12 I have been forgotten like one who is dead; I have become like a broken vessel.
- 13 For I hear the whispering of many—terror on every side!—
as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life.

- 14 But I trust in you, O YAHWEH; I say, "You are my God."
15 My times are in your hand;
 rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors!
16 Make your face shine on your servant; save me in your steadfast love!
17 O YAHWEH, let me not be put to shame, for I call upon you;
 let the wicked be put to shame; let them go silently to Sheol.
18 Let the lying lips be mute,
 which speak insolently against the righteous in pride and contempt.
- 19 Oh, how abundant is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you
 and worked for those who take refuge in you, in the sight of the children of mankind!
20 In the cover of your presence you hide them from the plots of men;
 you store them in your shelter from the strife of tongues.
- 21 Blessed be YAHWEH, for he has wondrously shown his steadfast love to me
 when I was in a besieged city.
22 I had said in my alarm, "I am cut off from your sight."
 But you heard the voice of my pleas for mercy when I cried to you for help.
- 23 Love YAHWEH, all you his saints! YAHWEH preserves the faithful
 but abundantly repays the one who acts in pride.
24 Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for YAHWEH!

PRAYER

O Lord, in whom we have trusted, the rock of our might and our merciful God, be present with us in all dangers and adversities, both spiritual and temporal. Let not the overflowing of ungodliness overwhelm us, nor let us sink under the calamities that may befall us. We know that you are good and gracious, of tender mercy toward all who call upon you with a sincere heart. We therefore pray that in all the changes and temptations of this mortal life we may be kept by your power through faith. When your chastisements fall upon, let us pray for grace to call our actions to remembrance, to search our spirits, to put to the test our very hearts and minds that we may fervently implore pardon and earnestly seek more abundant supplies of grace. Prepare us for that great day when the secrets of all hearts shall be known. This we humbly beg through the merits and mediation of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.