

PSALM 41

As the Lord has had compassion upon us, he expects that we should have compassion upon our fellow men. We are therefore encouraged to acts of kindness to the poor and needy: "Forasmuch as you have done it to one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it even to me." An exemption from sickness and sorrow is not promised to the children of God, but strength and comfort are given to support and carry them through their afflictions and trials in this world, and in the world to come they shall be set in heavenly places through the merits of Christ.

For the choir director. A Psalm of David.

- 1 Blessed is the one who considers the poor! In the day of trouble YAHWEH delivers him;
- 2 YAHWEH protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land;
you do not give him up to the will of his enemies.
- 3 YAHWEH sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness you restore him to full health.

- 4 As for me, I said, "O YAHWEH, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against you!"
- 5 My enemies say of me in malice, "When will he die, and his name perish?"
- 6 And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words, while his heart gathers iniquity;
when he goes out, he tells it abroad.
- 7 All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me.

- 8 They say, "A deadly thing is poured out on him;
he will not rise again from where he lies."
- 9 Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread,
has lifted his heel against me.
- 10 But you, O YAHWEH, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them!

- 11 By this I know that you delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me.
- 12 But you have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in your presence forever.
- 13 Blessed be YAHWEH, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.

PRAYER

O blessed Jesus, our Saviour, be merciful to us and enable us to have compassion for the poor and needy. Give us grace and power to show them mercy, that we, being merciful, may receive mercy. The day is coming when we shall give an account of our deeds, whether they be good or whether they be evil. Grant that we may be fully obedient to your word and thus escape the stings of conscience. If we suffer wrongfully at the hands of others, let us take it patiently as you did. We give you this day all our gratitude and praise.. Amen.