

### **Responsive Reading – Gratitude**

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

**Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:**

He forgives all my soul's sins, and heals all its diseases,

**He redeems my life from death,**

He crowns me with steadfast love and mercy,

**He satisfies me with good so that my youth is renewed like the eagle's.**

Though I often feel afflicted,

**And complain to you that you have forgotten me, O LORD,**

Still I can say, Return, O my soul, to your rest;

**For the LORD deals bountifully with me.**

Our LORD is gracious and does what is right;

**Our God is merciful and preserves the simple;**

When I am brought low, he saves me.

**O LORD, I am your servant, for you free me from other masters.**

What then can I offer to you for all your benefits to me?

**You ask only that I lift up the cup of salvation\* and call on your name.**

I will tell of your name to my fellow believers;

**Amid the congregation I will praise you:**

“You who fear the LORD, praise him!

**For he has not turned his back on our misery.**

Quite the opposite – when we cry to you, you hear us!

**Your Spirit within me urges me to praise and gives me the words!”**

The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;

**Those who seek him shall praise the LORD!**

May your hearts live forever!

**All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.**

For every good gift and every perfect gift is from above,

**Given to us by the Father of lights, who is not fickle and shows no favoritism.**

Among his gifts are these: wisdom, knowledge, and joy

**Our God is a spring of living water to those who trust in him.**

When we seek our refreshment in him, our souls are renewed

**So let us set our minds on the things that are above, where he dwells.**

God appears pure to those who are pure, but to the crooked he seems crafty

**So if we want to understand his ways we should seek holiness and purity, for he is holy and pure**

When we trust that God works for the good through all circumstances in the lives of those who love him,

**Then we can dare to give thanks even in hardship, knowing we are not alone**

So we rejoice always and continually give thanks to God in our ongoing conversations with him,

**For this is his will for us, and helps us to mature in wisdom and faith.**

From Psalm 103:1-5, 116; 22:22-27; James 1:17; Ecc. 2:26; John 7:38; Colossians 3:2; Psalm 18:26; Romans 8:28; 1 Thess. 5:16-18

\*“the cup of salvation” was a cup of wine lifted up as a “toast” to God when a worshipper offered a “thank {or fellowship} offering” before the LORD – see Leviticus 7:11. It was a public way of giving thanks to God in the presence of others for specific blessings – much like the “Praise Time” in our worship