

March 24, 2023



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH LENT

Photo by Alan Carrillo from Unsplash

THE LORD IS CLOSE TO THE BROKENHEARTED

By Sister Christine Hilliard, CSJ

Today's Responsorial Psalm

*The LORD confronts the evildoers,
to destroy remembrance of them from the earth.
When the just cry out, the LORD hears them,
and from all their distress he rescues them.*

*The LORD is close to the brokenhearted;
and those who are crushed in spirit he saves.
Many are the troubles of the just man,
but out of them all the LORD delivers him.*

*He watches over all his bones;
not one of them shall be broken.
The LORD redeems the lives of his servants;
no one incurs guilt who takes refuge in him.*

PSALM 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23

Reflection

The emphasis in this psalm is on receiving from the Holy One. God gives to the faithful in specific ways:

- *When the just cry out, the LORD hears them and from all their distress God rescues them.*
- *The LORD is close to the brokenhearted.*
- *... those who are crushed in spirit God saves.*
- *Many are the troubles of the just man, but out of them all the LORD delivers him.*
- *The LORD redeems the lives of his servants.*

The character of God is gift-giver. This means that our character is that of gift-receiver. Our physical posture is one with open hands and our heart's song is humble thanks.

Notably the cry of the just signifies people who have been reduced to helplessness. Yahweh's particular leanings happen to be with those who are brokenhearted and weak. So, God's solidarity is not with those who go from success to success, but with those who are denied success.



For Pondering

- When have you sensed God's presence in the last few days? Would you say it was in times of darkness or light, or a little of both? What did the Holy Presence offer you? How was that gift extended to others in your life?
 - Recall a time of God's closeness. What was going on in your life? As you remember this time, what do you say to God now?
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Closing Prayer

*Loving God,
protect me with
your love.
Prevent others from viewing me with hostility.
Never allow
the negativity of others
to influence my life
or affect my destiny.*

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