

GRACIOUS GOD,

The Bible promises that *those who wait for You will gain new strength*. I love to spend time waiting in Your Presence, even though multitasking and staying busy have become the norm. During the Advent season, there are *more* things to do than usual. Please help me break free for a while from all the activity and demands. As I *seek Your Face* and enjoy Your Presence, I ponder the essential truth that Christmas is all about *You*.

Waiting with You is an act of faith—trusting that prayer really does make a difference. So I *come to You with my weariness and burdens*, being candidly real with You. While I rest in Your Presence and tell You about my concerns, You lift heavy burdens from my aching shoulders. I'm grateful that *You are able to do immeasurably more than all I ask or imagine!*

As I arise from these quiet moments with You, I delight in hearing You whisper, "I am with you." And I rejoice in the *new strength* gained through spending time with You.

IN YOUR ENERGIZING NAME, JESUS,
AMEN

*Rest in Me, My child,
forgetting about
the worries of the
world. Focus on Me—
Immanuel—and let
My living Presence
envelop you in Peace.*



Those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.

ISAIAH 40:31 NASB



"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

MATTHEW 11:28



Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.

EPHESIANS 3:20

MY DELIGHTFUL LORD,

This is the day that You have made! As I rejoice in this day of life, it will yield precious gifts and beneficial training. I want to walk with You along the high road of thanksgiving—discovering all the delights You have prepared for me.

To protect my thankfulness throughout this holiday season, I need to remember that I reside in a fallen world where blessings and sorrows intermingle freely. When I'm too focused on troubles, I walk through a day that's brimming with beauty and brightness while seeing only the grayness of my thoughts. Neglecting the practice of giving thanks darkens my mind and dims my vision.

Lord, please clear up my vision by helping me remember to thank You at all times. When I'm grateful, I can walk through the darkest days with Joy in my heart because I know that *the Light of Your Presence* is still shining on me. So *I rejoice in You*—my delightful, steadfast Companion.

IN YOUR BRIGHT, SHINING NAME, JESUS,
AMEN

*When you approach
Me with thanksgiving,
the Light of My
Presence pours into
you, transforming you
through and through.*

This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

PSALM 118:24 ESV



Devote yourselves to prayer, being
watchful and thankful.

COLOSSIANS 4:2



Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim
you, who walk in the light of your presence,
O LORD. They rejoice in your name all day
long; they exult in your righteousness.

PSALM 89:15-16



ALL-KNOWING GOD,

This is a wonderful time of year, but it can also be an exhausting time for me. When my spirit grows faint within me, it is You who know my way. This is one of the benefits of weakness; it highlights the reality that I cannot find my way without Your guidance. Whenever I'm feeling weary or confused, I can choose to look away from these feelings and turn wholeheartedly toward You. As I pour out my heart to You, I find rest in the Presence of the One who knows my way perfectly—all the way to heaven.

Help me to continue this practice of gazing at You even during the times when I'm feeling confident and strong. This is when I am most at risk of going in the wrong direction. Instead of assuming that I know the next step of my journey, I'm learning to make my plans in Your Presence—asking You to guide me.

Please remind me often that *Your ways and thoughts are higher than mine, as the heavens are higher than the earth.* Remembering this great truth draws me into worshipping You, *the High and Lofty One who inhabits eternity.* I rejoice that even though *You dwell in the high and holy place,* You reach down to show me the way I should go.

IN YOUR EXALTED NAME, JESUS,
AMEN

*Trust Me with every
fiber of your being!
What I can accomplish
in and through
you is proportional
to how much you
depend on Me.*



When my spirit grows faint within me,
it is you who know my way.

PSALM 142:3



"As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways and
my thoughts than your thoughts."

ISAIAH 55:9



Thus says the High and Lofty One who inhabits
eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high
and holy place, with him who has a contrite and
humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble,
and to revive the heart of the contrite ones."

ISAIAH 57:15 NKJV

MY LOVING LORD,

In the midst of this busy season, You continually invite me to draw near. I love to hear You whispering in my heart: *"Come to Me, beloved. I have loved you with an everlasting Love. I have drawn you with lovingkindness."* I respond to Your beautiful invitation by being still in Your Presence—relaxing and *fixing my thoughts on You*. And I meditate on the glorious truth that *You are continually with me*. This rock-solid reality provides a firm foundation for my life.

The world I inhabit is constantly in flux—I can find no solid ground here. So I desperately need to stay aware of *You* as I go about my day. I know I won't be able to do this perfectly, but I can return to *You* time after time, praying: "Jesus, keep me aware of Your loving Presence." I like to let this prayer continually echo in my heart and mind—drawing me back to *You* when my thoughts start to wander away.

I've found that the more of *You* I have in my life through living close to *You*, the more joyful I am. This blesses not only me but others—as Your Joy flows through me to them.

IN YOUR BLESSED NAME, JESUS,
AMEN

*A person who
is open to
My Presence is
exceedingly
precious to Me.*

The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying:
"Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love;
therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you."

JEREMIAH 31:3 NKJV



Holy brothers, who share in the heavenly
calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle
and high priest whom we confess.

HEBREWS 3:1



I am continually with You; You
hold me by my right hand.

PSALM 73:23 NKJV



DELIGHTFUL LORD,

I love listening to the song that You continually sing to me: *"I take great delight in you; I renew you by My Love; I shout for Joy over you."* The voices of this world are a cacophony of chaos, pulling me this way and that—especially in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Help me not to listen to those voices but to challenge them with Your Word. Show me how to take breaks from the noise of the world—finding a place to be still in Your Presence so I can hear Your voice.

I believe there is immense hidden treasure to be found through listening to You. You are always pouring out blessings upon me, but some of Your richest blessings have to be actively sought. I rejoice when You reveal Yourself to me—through Your Word, Your people, and the wonders of creation.

Having a seeking heart opens me up to receive more of You. The Bible gives me clear instructions: *Keep on asking and it will be given to you; keep on seeking and you will find; keep on knocking and the door will be opened to you.*

IN YOUR GENEROUS NAME, JESUS,
AMEN

*Let Me fill you
with My Love, Joy,
and Peace. These
are Glory-gifts,
flowing from My
living Presence.*



The LORD your God is in your midst; he is a warrior who can deliver. He takes great delight in you; he renews you by his love; he shouts for joy over you."

ZEPHANIAH 3:17 NET



While [Peter] was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him!"

MATTHEW 17:5 NASB



"Ask and keep on asking and it will be given to you; seek and keep on seeking and you will find; knock and keep on knocking and the door will be opened to you."

MATTHEW 7:7 AMP

RESTFUL LORD JESUS,

I come to You seeking to find rest in Your Presence. As I relax with You, Lord, I can enjoy Your Peace during this exciting, hectic season. *How precious it is, Lord, to realize that You are thinking about me constantly!* I long to be increasingly mindful of You. You've been teaching me that awareness of Your Presence can *give me rest* even when I'm very busy. An inner peacefulness flows out of remembering that *You are with me always*. This remembrance permeates my heart, mind, and spirit—filling me with Joy.

I confess that sometimes I get so focused on the problems I see and the predictions I hear that my joy gets buried under layers of worry and fear. When this happens, I need to bring my concerns to You—talking with You about each one, seeking Your help and guidance, asking You to remove those worry-layers. As I entrust My concerns into Your care and keeping, Joy begins to emerge again. I've learned that the most effective way for me to nurture this gladness is speaking and singing praises to You—*the King of Glory!*

IN YOUR PRAISEWORTHY NAME,
AMEN

*I, your Lord and
Savior, am alive
within you. Learn to
tune in to My living
Presence by seeking
me in silence.*

How precious it is, Lord, to realize that you are thinking about me constantly! I can't even count how many times a day your thoughts turn toward me. And when I waken in the morning, you are still thinking of me!

PSALM 139:17 TLB



"Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

MATTHEW 28:20



Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in.

PSALM 24:7 NKJV



PRECIOUS JESUS,

During this Advent season, I am waiting for You with hope in my heart. Through reading Your Word, I've seen that waiting, trusting, and hoping are intricately connected—like golden strands woven together to form a strong chain. I think of *trusting* as the central strand because this attitude is taught so frequently throughout the Bible. Waiting and hoping embellish the central strand and strengthen the chain that connects me to You.

Waiting for You to work, with my eyes fixed on You, shows that I really do trust You. But if I simply mouth the words “I trust You” while anxiously trying to make things go my way, my words ring hollow.

Hoping is future-directed, connecting me to my glorious inheritance in heaven. However, as You have shown me, the benefits of hope fall fully on me in the present.

Because I belong to You, I don't just pass time in my waiting. I can wait expectantly, in hopeful trust. Please help me stay alert so I can pick up even the faintest glimmer of Your Presence.

IN YOUR TRUSTWORTHY NAME,
AMEN

*I care as much about
your tiny trust-steps
through daily life as
about your dramatic
leaps of faith. You may
think that no one notices,
but the One who is
always beside you sees
everything—and rejoices.*