



First Christian Reformed Church of Lynden  
From Generation to Generation for the Glory of God

*God's precious and exceedingly great promises in hard times*

*Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,  
teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom,  
singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,  
with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

**Scripture**

*Reflections from Job on suffering and hardship.*

**Job 1:20-22**

<sup>20</sup> Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. <sup>21</sup> And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." <sup>22</sup> In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

**Job 2:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die." <sup>10</sup> But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

**Job 5:6-9**

<sup>6</sup> or affliction does not come from the dust, nor does trouble sprout from the ground,  
<sup>7</sup> but man is born to trouble as the sparks fly upward.  
<sup>8</sup> "As for me, I would seek God, and to God would I commit my cause,  
<sup>9</sup> who does great things and unsearchable, marvelous things without number

**Job 5:17-18**

<sup>17</sup> Behold, blessed is the one whom God reproveth;  
therefore despise not the discipline of the Almighty.  
<sup>18</sup> For he wounds, but he binds up; he shatters, but his hands heal.

**Job 12:10**

In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.

**Job 13:15**

Though he slay me, I will hope in him.

**Job 19:25-27**

<sup>25</sup> For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth.  
<sup>26</sup> And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God,  
<sup>27</sup> whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another.  
My heart faints within me!

**Job 42:1-2, 12**

<sup>1</sup> Then Job answered the Lord and said:  
<sup>2</sup> "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted."  
<sup>12</sup> And the Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning.

## Song

*Psalm 59:16 But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.*

[You can Google the hymn to hear it if you would like to sing along.]

### *He Leadeth Me*

He leadeth me: O blessed thought!  
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!  
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,  
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

*Refrain:* He leadeth me, he leadeth me;  
by his own hand he leadeth me:  
his faithful follower I would be,  
for by his hand he leadeth me.

Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom,  
sometimes where Eden's flowers bloom,  
by waters calm, o'er troubled sea,  
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me. *Refrain*

Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine,  
nor ever murmur nor repine;  
content, whatever lot I see,  
since 'tis my God that leadeth me. *Refrain*

And when my task on earth is done,  
when, by thy grace, the victory's won,  
e'en death's cold wave I will not flee,  
since God through Jordan leadeth me. *Refrain*

("He Leadeth Me" Words by Joseph H. Gilmore, © 1998 Integrity's Praise! Music/Sovereign Grace Praise (BMI), CCLI #358926, Streaming License 20317932)

## Prayer

*II Chronicles 7:14 If my people, who are called by my Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

Holy Father, as your children we come before you. As your children we have so much to learn. And perhaps the biggest and hardest lessons are the most painful ones, to learn how trials and tribulations and even terrible tragedies work together for your glory and our good. That doesn't make sense to us. Yet your Word says in this life we will have affliction and it says you have overcome this world, you control it and use everything in it to accomplish your perfect purposes.

So we confess to you that we desperately need your wisdom to help us understand and accept the painful events and twists and turns of life. Enable us to even accept them with grace and joy, knowing that you can transform the ugliest circumstances into something beautiful, that you are able to resurrect life out of ashes, that you can turn Satan's most destructive intentions into redemptive good.

We ask you to increase and strengthen our faith, hope, trust and confidence in you as our most loving heavenly Father. Give us that faith that sets us free from fear and gives us endurance for whatever may lie ahead on this journey to our forever home.

Father, all this that we ask for ourselves, we ask a double portion for our loved ones, our friends, and most of all for those who don't know you and are totally lost in the midst of their suffering. Glorify yourself in and through all that you are doing in and through us. In the precious and powerful name of Jesus, Amen.