

Invitation to Prayer: Lord, I put my trust in Thee; I say 'Thou art my God'. My fortunes are in Thy hand. (Ps. 31:14-15)

PRAYER FOR THE LONELY AND AGED

Dear Lord, there are some pains in life which seem to penetrate into the deep part of our souls. Such pain is loneliness. I know that others feel it more intensely than I, and yet my loneliness is right now my deepest pain. Day after day I wonder if anyone is there, if anyone cares. I even wonder if you care, God. Must this emptiness accompany me for such a long time?

I know that Christ was alone, forsaken, and in agony. I know that He knows what I'm going through and what I feel. Help me, Lord, not to run away from my suffering before I experience its full meaning. Thank you, Lord, for being with me. *Amen*



Dear God, give Thy comfort to those of us who are lonely, those of us who feel neglected or are separated from loved ones and so left alone. Lead us to others so we may know the Spirit of Jesus Christ who walked among us as a friend. *Amen*

Lord, I'm not sure that I am thankful for aging. Oh, there are those moments when I can bring to bear the wisdom I have accumulated over the years and I do seem to have a new sense of timing which is less urgent than before. And, yes, there is a peace which has developed over the years that I have walked with Thee.

But when I was young my energy was limitless, my dreams unbounded, and my visions reached far into the future. Over the years my energy has mellowed and my body responds with much less enthusiasm. It also has become difficult for me to hear and to see. And as my gifts of hearing and sight seem to slip away, I wonder, too, if Thou are deserting me.

My dreams have changed and I now treasure the time I have with people, especially my family. My vision, too, is bounded more closely by time as you have taught me to number my days. I find that I am much less excited about technical advancement and the new products on the market which will solve our problems. I spend much more time enjoying Thy presence, Lord, and perhaps that is the true gift of aging.
Amen

