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Through Jesus Christ Our Lord: Readings From Romans 5-8

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Through Jesus Christ our Lord Readings from Romans 5–8

LEE MAGNESS

This reading blends the deep theology and lofty poetry of Romans 5–8 into a rhythmic, responsive reading. Stanzas may be read as a single reading or selectively, scattered throughout a service of worship or throughout a sermon. R designates a single reader; C indicates either congregation or readers choir.

Stanza 1

R We have been justified, made right with God,
C *by faith in Jesus Christ.*
R We have found peace, peace with God,
C *through our Lord Jesus Christ.*
R We have gained access, to God's throne of grace,
C *through faith on whom we stand.*

R Jesus who rights us and reconciles us,
C *Jesus our way and our joy. (5.1–5)*

Stanza 2

R While we were weak, still in our sins,
C *Christ died for the godless.*
R While we were sinners, dead in our sins,
C *God showed us his love.*
R While we were enemies, foes of the Father,
C *he gave life by the death of his Son. (5.6–11)*

R We have been justified, freed from his wrath,
C *saved by Jesus' blood.*

Stanza 3

R Death spread to all, because all sinned,
C *but grace abounded through Jesus.*
R Death reigned in all, since Adam's sin,
C *but righteousness reigns through Christ.*
R Sin led to death, but grace to life,
C *through the one man Jesus Christ. (5.12–21)*

R God's free gift, abounding grace,
C *through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Stanza 4

R We have been baptized, into Christ Jesus,
 C *baptized into his death.*
 R We have been buried and raised with Christ,
 C *raised by the glory of God.*
 R We have been buried, raised with him,
 C *to walk in newness of life.* (6.1-4)

R How can the saved continue in sin?
 C *We live to the glory of God!*

Stanza 5

R United in death, united in life,
 C *we will be raised with him.*
 R Dying with Christ, living with Christ,
 C *we will be raised like him.*
 R Slaves to sin, set free from sin,
 C *death has no more dominion.*
 R The death we die, we die to sin,
 C *we live our lives for God.* (6.5-11)

Stanza 6

R We serve not sin, as though our sovereign,
 C *we offer ourselves to God.*
 R We have been brought from death to life,
 C *tools for the task of righteousness.*
 R We are not under law, we live under grace,
 C *Sin has no dominion.* (6.12-14)
 R The death we die, we die to sin,
 C *we live our lives for God.*

Stanza 7

R We live under grace, not under law,
 C *slaves to God not sin.*
 R Set free from sin, but slaves to God,
 C *to a right and holy life.*
 R Not bearing fruit that leads to death,
 C *but fruit that leads to life.*
 R The gift of God in Jesus Christ,
 C *eternal life in our Lord.* (6.15-23)

Stanza 8

R We died to the law, through the body of Christ,
 C *so now we belong to another.*
 R Living under the law, aroused by the law,
 C *our bodies bore fruit for death.*

R But now we are free from the chains of the law,
 C *to live and serve in the Spirit.*

R Who has delivered our lives from death?
 C *God, through our Lord Jesus Christ. (7.4–6, 24–25)*

Stanza 9

R We know there is now no condemnation,
 C *for those who are in Christ.*

R For the law of the Spirit has set us free
 C *from the law of sin and death.*

R We walk, we live, not based on the flesh,
 C *we walk and think in the Spirit.*

R We walk, we live at peace with God.
 C *We live to please our God. (8.1–8)*

Stanza 10

R No longer debtors, indebted to flesh,
 C *freed by the Spirit of God.*

R No longer dead, dead in the flesh,
 C *alive in the Spirit of God.*

R No longer slaves, slaves to the flesh,
 C *redeemed by the Spirit of God*

R No longer orphans, now children and heirs,
 C *adopted, now we cry, Abba. (8.12–17)*

Stanza 11

R We share his sufferings, the sufferings of Christ,
 C *as we wait for the greater glory.*

R Creation groans, as if in labor,
 C *awaiting rebirth from bondage.*

R Like all creation, we ourselves groan,
 C *filled with the fruits of the Spirit.*

R Awaiting adoption, awaiting redemption,
 C *in this hope we are saved. (8.18–25)*

Stanza 12

R The Spirit helps us in our weakness
 C *with groanings too deep for words.*

R The Spirit intercedes for all the saints
 C *according to the will of God.*

R God is at work in all our works,
 C *according to his good purpose.*

R Called, foreknown, predestined, conformed,
 C *conformed to the image of Christ. (8.26–30)*

Stanza 13

R If God is for us, who can oppose?

C *He did not spare his own Son!*

R If God has chosen us, who can condemn?

C *Christ is the one who died!*

R If God has raised us, who can separate

C *from the love of God in Christ?*

R More than conquerors in every crisis,

C *through Jesus Christ our Lord. (8.31-39)*

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