Responsive Reading : Psalm 38

O LORD, rebuke me not in your anger, nor discipline me in your wrath!

**For your arrows have sunk into me, and your hand has come down on me.**

There is no soundness in my flesh because of your indignation; there is no health in my bones because of my sin.

**For my iniquities have gone over my head; like a heavy burden, they are too heavy for me.**

My wounds stink and fester because of my foolishness,

**I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; all the day I go about mourning.**

For my sides are filled with burning, and there is no soundness in my flesh.

**I am feeble and crushed; I groan because of the tumult of my heart.**

O Lord, all my longing is before you; my sighing is not hidden from you.

**My heart throbs; my strength fails me, and the light of my eyes—it also has gone from me.**

My friends and companions stand aloof from my plague, and my nearest kin stand far off.

**Those who seek my life lay their snares; those who seek my hurt speak of ruin and meditate treachery all day long.**

But I am like a deaf man; I do not hear, like a mute man who does not open his mouth.

**I have become like a man who does not hear, and in whose mouth are no rebukes.**

But for you, O LORD, do I wait; it is you, O Lord my God, who will answer.

**For I said, “Only let them not rejoice over me, who boast against me when my foot slips!”**

For I am ready to fall, and my pain is ever before me.

**I confess my iniquity; I am sorry for my sin.**

But my foes are vigorous, they are mighty, and many are those who hate me wrongfully.

**Those who render me evil for good accuse me because I follow after good.**

Do not forsake me, O LORD! O my God, be not far from me!

**Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!**