



Sweet Birthday Celebration Devotion/Litany

[Please provide: copies for attendees.]

Leader: Happy birthday, dear sisters in Christ!
Sunrise, sunset,
season in, season out,
we are still here, still celebrating birthdays on planet earth.

All: *From birth I have relied on you; you brought me forth from my mother's womb. I will ever praise you (Psalm 71:6).*

Leader: Sunrise, sunset,
from the first wobbling steps of our babyhood,
through the various seasons of our childhood,
through the running and whirling of our youth,
from our hesitant steps into new classrooms and new situations,
You have been there, protecting, guarding, and guiding.

All: *Since my youth, O God, you have taught me, and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds. Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, O God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your might to all who are to come (Psalm 71:17-18).*

Leader: So many hurdles in growing up, so many wending roads through young adulthood, through the touchstones of middle age and the challenges of the future, but You are there, going before us always.

All: *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path (Psalm 119:105).
Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him (Psalm 34:8).*

Leader: Sunrise, sunset,
great has been Thy faithfulness throughout the seasons of our lives –
in times of despair and doubt,
in times of gladness and joy,
You have been there!

All *Your righteousness reaches to the skies, O God, you who have done great things. Who, O God, is like you? Though you have made me see troubles, many and bitter, you will restore my life again; from the depths of the earth you will again bring me up. You will increase my honor and comfort me once again (Psalm 71:19-21).*

Leader: Your faithfulness has been new every morning. We recall Your promises with joy as we continue on our earthly journey. Your promises are the stronghold of our lives.

All: *How sweet are your promises to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path (Psalm 119:103-104).*

Leader: O, Lord, throughout our years You have blessed us with so many gifts – mornings and evenings, starlight and sunlight, spring showers and autumn harvests, with delicious fruits of the earth, with raiment and roof, Your grace has flooded every corner of our lives – great has been Your faithfulness!

All: *I will praise you with the harp for your faithfulness, O my God; I will sing praise to you with the lyre, O Holy One of Israel. My lips will shout for joy when I sing praise to you – I, whom you have redeemed (Psalm 71:22-23).*

Leader: We have tasted and we have known the sweetness of Your Word. We have found refuge in You ... and abundant joy! Through Your Word we have been led to the birth of our faith in Jesus and we look forward to celebrating forever with You in heaven!

Leader and All: Sunrise, sunset, another tilting around the sun – we rejoice in Your wondrous birthday gifts to us throughout all our years, and especially for the sweet, sweet riches of Your Word. Praise to You, dear Lord God! Amen.

Scripture references are from the NIV.

Sweet Birthday Celebration
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