

*Hail, Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, mother of God,
pray for us sinners now
and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

Verse 1

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.

Though a host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.

One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple.

For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion: in the secret of His tabernacle shall He hide me, He shall set me up upon a rock.

Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Psalm 27:1-5,14

Verse 3

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul. He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil: my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

— Psalm 23

Verse 2

The earth is the LORD's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

For He hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.

Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in His holy place?

He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of salvation.

Psalm 24:1-5

Verse 4

God will redeem my soul from
the power of the grave,
for *He* shall receive me.

Psalm 49:15

Verse 5

*The LORD is my light and my
salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the strength of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?*

—PSALM 27:1

Verse 7

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun!

—John Newton, John P. Rees

Verse 6

*Jesus loves me! this I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong,
They are weak but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so!*

Verse 8

Every blade in the field
Every leaf in the forest
Lays down its life in its season
As beautifully as
it was taken up.

Henry David Thoreau

Verse 9

*God hath not promised
Skies always blue.
Flower-strewn pathways
All our lives through:
God hath not promised
Sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow,
Peace without pain.*

*But God hath promised
Strength for the day;
Rest for the labor,
Light for the way;
Grace for the trials,
Help from above;
Unfailing sympathy,
Undying love...*

Verse 11

***T**he heavens declare the glory of God;
and the firmament showeth His
handiwork.*

*His going forth is from the end of the heaven,
and His circuit unto the ends of it: and there is
nothing hid from the heat thereof.*

*The Law of the LORD is perfect, converting
the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure,
making wise the simple.*

*Let the words of my mouth, and the
meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy
sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.*

—from the 19th Psalm

Verse 10

***Prayer of
St. Francis of Assisi***

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and
it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Verse 12

FOR I am persuaded that neither
death, nor life, nor angels, nor
principalities, nor powers, nor
things present, nor things to come,
nor height, nor depth, nor any
other creature, shall be able to
separate us from the love of God,
which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

—Romans 8:28

Verse 13

O GENTLEST Heart of Jesus, ever present
in the Blessed Sacrament, ever consumed
with burning love for the poor captive
souls in Purgatory, have mercy on the
soul of Thy departed servant. Be not severe
in Thy judgment but let some drops of
Thy precious Blood fall upon the
devouring flames, and do Thou O merciful
Saviour send Thy angels to conduct Thy
departed servant to a place of refreshment,
light and peace. AMEN.

May the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
AMEN.

Verse 15

TAPS

Day is done, gone the sun
from the lake, from the hill,
from the sky.
All is well, safely rest. God is nigh.

Thanks and praise for our days
'neath the sun, 'neath the stars,
'neath the sky.
As we go, this we know. God is nigh.

Verse 14

Now I lay me
down to sleep,
I pray the Lord
my soul to keep.

Verse 16

There shall be no night there;
and they shall need no candle,
neither light of the sun;
For the LORD GOD
giveth them light:
and they shall reign
for ever and ever.

REVELATION 22:5

Verse 17

He said, I will never
leave thee,
nor forsake thee.

HEBREWS 13:5

Verse 19

*When thou passest
through the waters,
I will be with thee.*

Isaiah 43:2

Verse 18

Thy word is a lamp
unto my feet
and a light unto my path.

Psalm 119:105

Verse 20

I am standing upon the seashore. A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength. I stand and watch her until at length she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come together to mingle with each other.

Then someone at my side says: "There, she is gone!"

"Gone where?"

Gone from my sight. That is all. She is just as large in mast and hull and spar as she was when she left my side and she is just as able to bear her load of living freight to her destined port.

Her diminished size is in me, not in her. And just as the moment when someone at her side says: "There, she is gone!" there are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices ready to take up the glad shout: "Here she comes!"

Anonymous

Verse 21

"Why do you look
for the living
among the dead?
He is not here;
he has risen!"

—*Luke 24:5-6*

Verse 23

We shall all be changed, in a moment, in
the twinkling of an eye, at the last
trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and
the dead will be raised imperishable, and
we shall be changed.

"Death is swallowed up in victory."
"O death, where is thy victory?
O death, where is thy sting?"

—*1 Corinthians 15*

Verse 22

*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs
is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are those who mourn, for they
shall be comforted.*

*Blessed are the meek, for they shall
inherit the earth.*

*Blessed are those who hunger and
thirst for righteousness, for they shall be
satisfied.*

*Blessed are the merciful, for they shall
obtain mercy.*

*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they
shall see God.*

—*Matthew 5:3-8*

Verse 24

Footprints

One night I had a dream. I was walking along the beach with the Lord, and across the skies flashed scenes from my life. In each scene I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand. One was mine, and one was the Lord's.

When the last scene of my life appeared before me, I looked back at the footprints in the sand, and to my surprise I noticed that many times along the path of my life there was only one set of footprints. And I noticed that it was at the lowest and saddest times in my life.

I asked the Lord about it. "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you would walk with me all the way. But I notice that during the most troublesome times in my life there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why you left my side when I needed you most."

The Lord replied, "My precious child, I love you and would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, where you see only one set of footprints, I was carrying you."

Verse 25

*Behold, I stand at the door,
and knock; if any man hear
my voice, and open the
door, I will come in to him,
and will sup with him, and
he with me.*

REVELATION 3:20

Verse 27

*Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass
against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
And the power and the glory, forever.
Amen.*

Verse 26

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come;
Thy will be done,
On earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass
against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.*

Amen.

Verse 28

The Christian's "Good-night"

Sleep on, beloved, sleep, and take thy rest;
Lay down thy head upon thy Saviour's breast;
We love thee well, but Jesus loves thee best—
Good-night! Good-night! Good-night!

Calm is thy slumber as an infant's sleep,
But thou shalt wake no more to toil and weep;
Thine is a perfect rest, secure and deep—
Good-night! Good-night! Good-night!

Until the Easter glory lights the skies;
Until the dead in Jesus shall arise,
And He shall come, but not in lowly guise—
Good-night! Good-night! Good-night!

Until made beautiful by Love Divine,
Thou, in the likeness of thy Lord shalt shine,
And He shall bring that golden crown of thine—
Good-night! Good-night! Good-night!

Only "Good-night," beloved—not "Farewell!"
A little while, and all His saints shall dwell
In hallowed union, indivisible—
Good-night! Good-night! Good-night!

Until we meet again before His throne,
Clothed in the spotless robes He gives His own;
Until we know even as we are known—
Good-night! Good-night! Good-night!

—Sarah Doudney

Verse 29

There Is No Death

*There is a plan far greater than the plan you know;
There is a landscape broader than the one you see.
There is a haven where storm-tossed souls may go—
You call it death—we, immortality.*

*You call it death—this seeming endless sleep;
We call it birth—the soul at last set free.
'Tis hampered not by time or space—you weep.
Why weep at death? 'Tis immortality.*

*Farewell, dear voyageur—'twill not be long.
Your work is done—now may peace rest with thee.
Your kindly thoughts and deeds—they will live on.
This is not death—'tis immortality.*

*Farewell, dear voyageur—the river winds and turns;
The cadence of your song wafts near to me,
And now you know the thing all men learn:
There is no death—there's immortality.*

Verse 31

—Unknown

*When I come to the end of the day
And the sun has set for me
I want no rites in a gloom-filled room.
Why cry for a soul set free?
Miss me a little, but not too long
And not with your head bowed low.
Remember the love we once shared—
Miss me, but let me go.*

*For this is a journey we all must take
And each must go alone.
It's all a part of the Maker's plan,
A step on the road to home.
When you are lonely and sick at heart
Go to the friends we know
And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds—
Miss me, but let me go.*

Verse 30

*God gives us each a gift of life
To cherish from our birth.
He gives us friends and those we love
To share our days on Earth.*

*He watches us with loving care
And takes us by the hand,
He blesses us with countless joys
And guides the lives we've planned.*

*Then, when our work on Earth is done,
He calls us to His side,
'To live with Him in happiness
Where peace and love abide.*

Verse 32

God's Promises

God gives grace for each trial,
And courage for each sorrow,
And faith to face in confidence
A blessed, bright tomorrow.

Verse 33

It's difficult when someone
Who is loved cannot be there,
But memories that are made and shared
Will keep a loved one near.
And God, with loving wisdom,
Will be there to guide us through;
He'll help us meet tomorrow
And He'll give us strength anew.

Verse 35

Life Must Go On

Grieve for me, for I would grieve for you,
Then brush away the sorrow and the tears,
Life is not over, but begins anew.
With courage you must greet the coming years.
To live forever in the past is wrong,
Can only cause you misery and pain,
Dwell not on memories overlong,
With others you must share and care again.
Reach out and comfort those who comfort you,
Recall the years but only for a while,
Nurse not your loneliness but live again,
Forget not—remember with a smile.

Verse 34

There is never a life without sadness,
There is never a heart free from pain;
If one seeks in this world for true solace,
He seeks it forever in vain.

So when to your heart comes the sorrow
Of losing some dear one you've known
Tis the touch of God's sickle at harvest
Since He reaps in the fields He has sown.

Verse 36

If this were my last day I'm almost sure
 I'd spend it working in my garden. I
 Would dig about my little plants, and try
 To make them happy, so they would endure
 Long after me. Then I would hide secure
 Where my green arbor shades me from the sky,
 And watch how bird and bee and butterfly
 Came hovering to every flowery lure.
 Then, as I rested, perhaps a friend or two,
 Lovers of flowers would come,
 and we would walk
 About my little garden paths and talk
 Of peaceful times when all the world
 seemed true.
 This may be my last day, for all I know;
 What a temptation just to spend it so!

Anne Higginson Spicer

Verse 37

The butterfly emerges
 from its silken shell—
 Reborn, it arises,
 no longer bound to earth.
 Free at last, the butterfly glides
 to heights unknown before.

So do our loved ones find
 a beautiful release
 as, earthbound no more,
 they leave our sight and joyfully rise
 to a garden of matchless beauty,
 a place of light and peace.

—Evelyn Phillips

Verse 38

In Memory

When I must leave you for a little while
 Please do not grieve and shed wild tears
 And hug your sorrow to you through the years.
 But start out bravely with a gallant smile;
 And for my sake and in my name
 Live on and do all things the same;
 Feed not your loneliness on empty days,
 But fill each waking hour in useful ways,
 reach out your hand in comfort and in cheer
 And I in turn will comfort you and
 hold you near;
 And never, never be afraid to die,
 For I am waiting for you in the sky!

Verse 39

THE TIME HAS COME for me
 to leave this life. I have
 fought the good fight. I
 have finished the race. I have kept
 the faith. Now there is in store for
 me the crown of righteousness
 which the LORD, the righteous
 judge, will award to me on that
 day.

—Paul's Second Letter to Timothy

Verse 40

God grant me the Serenity
to accept the things
I cannot change. . .
Courage to change the
things I can
and Wisdom to know the
difference.

Verse 41

Nancy Byrd Turner

Death is only an old door
Set in a garden wall.
On quiet hinges it gives at dusk,
When the thrushes call.

Along the lintel are green leaves,
Beyond, the light lies still;
Very weary and willing feet
Go over that sill.

There is nothing to trouble any heart,
Nothing to hurt at all.
Death is only an old door
In a garden wall.

Verse 42

God's finger touched him and he slipped away
From earth's dark shadows to a brighter day;
God saw the road was getting rough.
The hills were hard to climb;
He gently closed his weary eyes,
And whispered, "Peace be thine."
To a beautiful garden this friend has gone,
To a land of perfect rest;
Though he is gone he still lives on
In the garden of memory.

Verse 43

God's finger touched her and she slipped away
From earth's dark shadows to a brighter day;
God saw the road was getting rough,
The hills were hard to climb;
He gently closed her weary eyes,
And whispered, "Peace be thine."
To a beautiful garden this friend has gone,
To a land of perfect rest;
Though she is gone she still lives on
In the garden of memory.

Verse 44

Mystery

What is this mystery that men call death?
My friend before me lies; in all save breath
He seems the same as yesterday. His face
So like to life, so calm, bears not a trace
Of that great change which all of us so dread.
I gaze on him and say: He is not dead,
But sleeps; and soon he will rise and take
Me by the hand. I know he will awake
And smile on me as he did yesterday;
And he will have some gentle word to say,
Some kindly deed to do; for loving thought
Was warp and woof of which
his life was wrought.
He is not dead. Such souls forever live
In boundless measure of the love they give.

—Jerome B. Bell

Verse 45

Requiem

Under the wide and starry sky
Dig the grave and let me lie;
Glad did I live and gladly die,
And I laid me down with a will.

This be the verse you 'grave for me:
Here he lies where he long'd to be;
Home is the sailor, home from the sea,
And the hunter home from the hill.

—Robert Louis Stevenson

Verse 47

Mystery

What is this mystery that men call death?
My friend before me lies; in all save breath
She seems the same as yesterday. Her face
So like to life, so calm, bears not a trace
Of that great change which all of us so dread.
I gaze on her and say: She is not dead,
But sleeps; and soon she will rise and take
Me by the hand. I know she will awake
And smile on me as she did yesterday;
And she will have some gentle word to say,
Some kindly deed to do; for loving thought
Was warp and woof of which
her life was wrought.
She is not dead. Such souls forever live
In boundless measure of the love they give.

—Jerome B. Bell

Verse 46

Death be not proud,
though some have called thee
Mighty and dreadful,
for thou art not so:
For those whom thou think'st
thou dost overthrow
Die not, poor death,
nor yet canst thou kill me.
One short sleep past,
we wake eternally,
And Death shall be no more:
Death, thou shalt die.

—John Donne

Verse 48

*'eyond the rainbow's farthest end, there lies
 A land that's always filled with love and light.
 Where shadows never fall and dim the skies;
 For in this lovely land, there is no night.
 In this celestial place of joy and peace,
 There is no time or space, no doubt or fear;
 For those who come to it, all troubles cease.
 All worldly difficulties disappear.*

*And though the loss of loved ones or of friends
 Brings sorrows and is hard for us to bear.
 If we could see beyond the rainbow's end
 We know that we could find them waiting there
 In that celestial dwelling place above—
 The land of peace and joy, of light and love.*

Verse 49

*America, the Beautiful
 O beautiful for spacious skies,
 For amber waves of grain,
 For purple mountain majesties
 Above the fruited plain!
 America! America!
 God shed His grace on thee,
 And crown thy good with brotherhood
 From sea to shining sea!*

Verse 51

Crossing the Bar
 Sunset and evening star,
 And one clear call for me!
 And may there be no moaning of the bar,
 When I put out to sea.

 But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
 Too full for sound and foam,
 When that which drew from out the boundless deep
 Turns again home.

 Twilight and evening bell,
 And after that the dark!
 And may there be no sadness of farewell,
 When I embark;

 For though from out our bourne of Time and Place
 The flood may bear me far,
 I hope to see my Pilot face to face
 When I have crossed the bar.

—ALFRED TENNYSON

Verse 50

*Leaf after leaf drops off,
 flower after flower,
 Some in the chill,
 some in the warmer hour:
 Alive they flourish,
 and alive they fall,
 And the Earth who nourished them
 receives them all.
 Should we, her wiser sons,
 be less content
 To sink into her lap
 when life is spent?*

WALTER SAVAGE LANDOR

Verse 52

Jesus said,

"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart: and you will find rest unto your souls.

"For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30

Verse 53

No eye has seen,
Nor ear heard,
Nor the heart of man conceived,
what *God* has prepared
for those
who love *Him*.

1 Corinthians 2:9

Verse 55

They that wait upon the *Lord* shall
renew their strength;
They shall mount up with
wings as eagles;
They shall run and not be weary;
They shall walk,
and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:31

Verse 54

Surely Jesus loves fishermen
for He chose them for His own,
To be with Him and learn from Him
and someday share His home.
It must have been their trust in God
and patience He found rare,
That keeps them very near His heart
and ever in His care.

-Anne Kujuwa

Verse 56

Jesus said:

"I am the light of the world.
He that follows me shall not
walk in darkness, but shall
have the light of life."

John 8:12

"I am the resurrection and the
life. He who believes in me,
though he die, yet shall he live,
and whoever lives and believes
in me shall never die."

John 11:25,26

Verse 57

God is our refuge and strength, a very
present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the
earth be moved, and though the mountains
be carried into the midst of the sea;

Though the waters thereof roar and be
troubled, though the mountains shake with
the swelling thereof.

There is a river, the streams whereof shall
make glad the city of God, the holy place of
the tabernacles of the most High.

God is in the midst of her; she shall not be
moved: God shall come to her aid at early
morn.

Verse 59

Psalms 46:1-5

*There is a time to reap what is ripe,
to bring in what is grown,
to pluck what is fulfilled.
It is time to harvest.
The Father's own Son is reaper.
The Lord is the reaper,
the one who led home the prodigal,
gathered in the lamb,
and dined with sinners.
It is harvest time.
Time to give thanks
that Jesus is the judge.
He will reap and He will plant;
He will harvest and He will grow;
He will plant and He will raise.
The earth is in His hands.
So are those who till and toil.
It is harvest time.
Soon it will be seed time.
Jesus said so.
He is in charge of the harvest.*

Verse 58

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from
whence cometh my help.

My help cometh from the LORD, which
made Heaven and earth.

The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil:
He shall preserve thy soul.

The LORD shall preserve thy going out and
thy coming in from this time forth, and even
for evermore.

—Psalm 121:1-2,7-8

Verse 60

Never again will they hunger;
Never again will they thirst.
The sun will not beat down upon them
nor any scorching heat.
For the Lamb at the center of the
throne will be their shepherd;
He will lead them to springs
of living water.
And God will wipe away every tear
from their eyes.

—Revelation 7:16,17

Verse 61

*Jesus said,
"I am the resurrection
and the life;
he who believes in me,
though he die,
yet shall he live,
and whoever lives
and believes in me
shall never die."*

—John 11:25,26

Verse 63

For the Lord is my rock and
my fortress;
therefore for thy name's sake lead me,
and guide me.
Truly my soul waiteth upon God:
from Him cometh my salvation.
He only is my rock and my salvation;
He is my defense; I shall not be moved.

—The Psalms

Verse 62

*He stilled the storm to a whisper;
the waves of the sea were hushed.
They were glad when it grew calm,
and He guided them to their
haven of rest.*

—Psalm 107:29,30

Verse 64

*He will dwell with them,
and they shall be His people,
and God himself shall be with them;
He will wipe away every tear
from their eyes,
and death shall be no more,
Neither shall there be mourning
nor crying nor pain any more,
for the former things
have passed away.*

—Revelation 21:3-4

Verse 65

*Jesus said,
"In my Father's house are many rooms;
if it were not so would I have told you
that I go to prepare a place for you?
And when I go and prepare a place for
you, I will come again and will take you
to myself, that where I am you may be
also. And you know the way I am
going."*

*"I am the way, and the truth,
and the life;
no one comes to the Father,
but by me."*

"Because I live, you will live also."

John 14:2-6, 19

Verse 67

*God heals the brokenhearted,
and binds up their wounds.
He counts the stars
and calls them all by name.
How great is our Lord!
His power is absolute!
His understanding is
without measure!*

—Psalm 147:3-5

Verse 66

*It's difficult when someone
Who is loved cannot be there,
But memories that are made and shared
Will keep a loved one near.
And God, with loving wisdom,
Will be there to guide us through;
He'll help us meet tomorrow
And He'll give us strength anew.*

Verse 68

Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee!
E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me;
Still all my song shall be,
Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee!

Though like the wanderer, The sun gone down,
Darkness be over me, my rest a stone;
Yet in my dreams I'd be
Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee!

There let the way appear, Steps into heaven;
All that Thou send'st to me in mercy given;
Angels to beckon me
Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee!

Then, with my waking thoughts, Bright with Thy praise,
Out of my stony griefs Bethel I'll raise;
So by my woes to be
Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee!

Or if on joyful wing, Cleaving the sky,
Sun, moon and stars forgot, upward I fly,
Still all my song shall be,
Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee!
—Sarah Adams

Verse 69

Nature

As a fond mother, when the day is o'er,
Leads by the hand her little child to bed,
Half willing, half reluctant to be led,
And leave his broken playthings on the floor,
Still gazing at them through the open door,
Nor wholly reassured and comforted
By the promises of others in their stead,
Which, though more splendid,
may not please him more;
So Nature deals with us, and takes away
Our playthings one by one, and by the hand
Leads us to rest so gently, that we go
Scarce knowing if we wish to go or stay,
Being too full of sleep to understand
How far the unknown transcends
the what we know.

HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW

Verse 71

As the deer thirsts for flowing
brooks, so longs my soul for you,
O God.

—Psalm 42:1

Verse 70

*God is gracious
More gracious than woman.
More protective than man.*

*He has a way of unfolding life.
He formed man out of the dust.
He lifted Noah out of water.
He led Israel out of Egypt.
He called David out of sin.
He lifted Mary out of doubt.
He led Lazarus out of tombs.
He raised Jesus out of death.*

*God has a way of caring.
He lifts up the spirit,
raises up the dead,
and opens up the future.*

*God is in charge of all that is good,
all that was good,
and all the good to come.*

*One thing Jesus made clear:
God is love.*

Verse 72

To a Waterfowl

There is a Power whose care
Teaches thy way along that pathless coast—
The desert and limitless air—
Lone wandering, but never lost.

And soon that toil shall end;
Soon shalt thou find a summer home, and rest,
And scream among thy fellows; reeds shall bend,
Soon, o'er thy sheltered rest.

He who, from zone to zone,
Guides through the boundless sky
thy certain flight,
In the long way that I must tread alone,
Will lead my steps aright.

—William Cullen Bryant

Verse 73

God, make me brave for life:
Oh, braver than this.
Let me straighten after pain,
As a tree straightens after the rain,
Shining and lovely again.
God, make me brave for life;
Much braver than this.
As the blown grass lifts, let me rise
From sorrow with quiet eyes,
Knowing thy way is wise.
God, make me brave, life brings
Such blinding things.
Help me to keep my sight;
Help me to see aright
That out of dark comes light.

Verse 75

Abide With Me

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide;
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, oh abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness;
Where is death's sting? where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide in me.

Hold then Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide in me.

—Henry Francis Lyte

Verse 74

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from
whence cometh my help.

My help cometh from the LORD, which
made Heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: He
that keepeth thee will not slumber.

Behold, He that keepeth Israel shall neither
slumber nor sleep.

The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy
shade upon thy right hand.

The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the
moon by night.

The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil:
He shall preserve thy soul.

The LORD shall preserve thy going out and
thy coming in from this time forth, and even
for evermore.

—Psalm 121

Verse 76

Magnificat

My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.
The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy is his name!
His mercy is from age to age
on those who fear him.
He puts forth his arm in strength
and scatters the proudhearted.
He casts the mighty from their thrones
and raises the lowly.
He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel his servant,
remembering his mercy,
The mercy promised to our ancestors,
to Abraham and his children forever.

Verse 77

As the deer thirsts for flowing brooks, so
longs my soul for you, O God.
I thirst for God, the living God. When shall I
come and behold the face of God?

Day and night I weep for his help, while my
enemies taunt me, "Where is your God?"

Take courage my soul! Remember how you
have gone with the faithful to the house of God
with the voice of joy and praise. Why then be
downcast? Why be discouraged and sad? Hope
in God! I shall praise him again for His help.

Though I am standing here depressed and
gloomy, I will meditate upon your kindness to
this lovely land.

All your waves have gone over me, and floods
of sorrow pour upon me like a thundering
waterfall.

Yet day by day the Lord also pours out His
steadfast love upon me, and through the night I
sing his songs and pray to God who gives me
life.

O my soul, don't be discouraged. Hope in
God, for I shall again praise Him for all that He
will do. He is my help! He is my God!

—Psalm 42

Verse 79

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth,
as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive
those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
for thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

Verse 78

*Jesus said,
"Let the little children come to me,
and do not hinder them,
for the kingdom of heaven belongs
to such as these."*

Matthew 19:14

Verse 80

The Twenty-Third Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want. ❀

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
He leadeth me beside the still waters. ❀

He restoreth my soul. He leadeth me in the
paths of righteousness for His name's sake. ❀

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art
with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. ❀

Thou preparest a table before me in the
presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head
with oil: my cup runneth over. ❀

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all
the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of
the Lord for ever. ❀

Verse 81

The Twenty-Third Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. ❀

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He
leadeth me beside the still waters. ❀

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths
of righteousness for His name's sake. ❀

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art
with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. ❀

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence
of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil:
my cup runneth over. ❀

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all
the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of
the Lord for ever. ❀

Verse 83

*To every thing there is a season, and
a time to every purpose under heaven:*

*A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to
plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;*

*A time to kill and a time to heal; a time to break
down, and a time to build up;*

*A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to
mourn, and a time to dance;*

*A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather
stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to
refrain from embracing;*

*A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep,
and a time to cast away;*

*A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep
silence, and a time to speak;*

*A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war,
and a time of peace.*

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Verse 82

*The earth bringeth forth fruit of herself;
first the blade, then the ear, after that the
full corn in the ear.*

Mark 4:28

*To every thing there is a season, and a
time to every purpose under heaven:*

*A time to be born, and a time to die; a
time to plant, and a time to pluck up that
which is planted.*

Ecclesiastes 3:2

Verse 84