

Let us go now to the banquet
ELW 523

1-20

Refrain: On the mountain is created
for all peoples the richest fare.
At the table a friend has waited
for the gifts that you bring to share.

1. When the light of the dawn is shining,
from the life that I lead, I'll arise.
At the feast of the Lord I'm dining
with my friends and my family ties.
2. God is giving the invitation
to partake of the wine and the bread,
for the quelling of all starvation,
that the least may be fully fed.
3. May we build such delightful places
where our brothers, the great and the small,
and our sisters that love embraces
come to work for the good of all.

9998, refrain 8898 alt. Chris Nelson 2019

Refrain: Let us go now to the banquet,
to the feast of the universe.
The table's set and a place is waiting;
come, ev'ryone, with your gifts to share.

1. I will rise in the early morning;
the community's waiting for me.
With a spring in my step I'm walking
with my friends and my family.
2. God invites all the poor and hungry
to the banquet of justice and good
where the harvest will not be hoarded
so the no one will lack for food.
3. May we build such a place among us
where all people are equal in love.
God has called us to work together
and to share ev'rything we have.

9998, refrain 88109
translated from the Spanish by
Bret Hesla 1996

What is this place
ELW 524

1-20

1. What is this place, sister and brother?

Only a house, the earth its floor,
walls and a roof, meant for each other,
windows for light, an open door.
Yet it becomes a body that is,
for those communing here,
the kingdom coming near.

2. Fire from afar, stars that are falling,
sparks that in us are sown like seed:
names for our God, marvels recalling
sent from the past are all we need,
when we remember everything good,
the gems of what we've heard
proceeding from the Word.

3. Food that we taste served at this table,
broken, becomes a living sign.
Here in our world, working when able,
we are each other's bread and wine.
This is the place the faithful receive
the peace in which to grow
that only they can know.

98 98 966 alt. Chris Nelson 2019

1. What is this place where we are meeting?

Only a house, the earth its floor.
Walls and a roof sheltering people,
windows for light, an open door.
Yet it becomes a body that lives
when we are gathered here,
and know our God is near.

2. Words from afar, stars that are falling,
sparks that are sown in us like seed:
names for our God, dreams, signs and wonders
sent from the past are all we need.
We in this place remember and speak
again what we have heard:
God's free redeeming word.

3. And we accept bread at this table,
broken and shared, a living sign.
Here in this world, dying and living,
we are each other's bread and wine.
This is the place where we can receive
what we need to increase:
our justice and God's peace.

Huub Oosterhuis, tr. David Smith 1984

Here, O Lord, your servants gather
ELW 530

1. Here, O Lord, your servants toss
all into your hand,
reverencing the holy cross
under which we stand.
Making vows we won't forsake,
kneeling down to pray,
Jesus, may we rise to take
steps upon the Way.

2. Many are the tongues we speak,
scattered are the lands,
yet our hearts remain unique,
ready for demands.
When the dawn of hope appears,
calling age and youth,
Jesus, give us through our tears
glimpses of the Truth.

3. In the realm of space and time,
forms that never cease,
where can weary pilgrims climb
up to find your peace?
Hungry for your food we wait,
knocked about by strife,
Jesus, through the narrow gate,
lead us to the Life.

4. In the world that you redeem,
filled with deathless love,
help us as we dare to dream
visions from above:
strength and courage, faith and sight,
Life and Truth and Way,
Jesus, be our Lord of Light
shining on the Day.

7575D alt. Chris Nelson 2019

1. Here, O Lord, your servants gather,
hand we link with hand;
looking toward our Savior's cross,
joined in love we stand.
As we seek the realm of God,
we unite to pray:
Jesus, savior, guide our steps,
for you are the Way.

2. Many are the tongues we speak,
scattered are the lands,
yet our hearts are one in God,
one in love's demands.
E'en in darkness hope appears,
calling age and youth:
Jesus, teacher, dwell with us,
for you are the Truth.

3. Nature's secrets open wide,
changes never cease.
Where, oh where, can weary souls
find the source of peace?
Unto all those sore distressed,
torn by endless strife:
Jesus, healer, bring your balm,
for you are the Life.

4. Grant, O God, an age renewed,
filled with deathless love;
help us as we work and pray,
send us from above
truth and courage, faith and pow'r,
needed in our strife:
Jesus, master, be our Way,
be our Truth, our Life.

translated from the Japanese by
Everett M. Stowe 1958

Gather us in ELW 532

1. Here in this place a radiance is streaming,
here is the darkness banished by light,
gladly to you our fears and our dreaming
offer we now on this morning so bright.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame,
rouse us from sleep and we shall awaken,
up and around at the sound of our name.

2. We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,
we are the old who yearn for your face,
music was always part of our hist'ry,
singing your Word to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the holy,
gather us in, the proud and the strong,
strengthen a heart that's humble and lowly,
eager to praise and to enter the song.

3. Here we observe the movement of water,
here we recall the signs of our birth,
here you shall bless each son and each daughter,
light on a hill and the salt of the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you,
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
vessels responding to all that is true.

4. Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away,
here in this place where newness is shining,
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own,
gather us in with all we endeavor,
fi-re of love in our flesh and our bone.

10 9 10 10 D alt. Chris Nelson 2018

1. Here in this place the new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

2. We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,
we are the old who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.

3. Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

4. Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away -
here in this place the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Marty Haugen 1982

Savior, again to your dear name
ELW 534

1. Savior, again to you our voices raise
one more concluding canticle of praise,
once more we thank you ere our worship cease,
when as our guest you bid us go in peace.
2. Grant us your solace on our homeward way,
as you continue ordering the day,
guard all the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
that in this house have called upon your name.
3. Keep us from harm throughout the coming night,
when to your eyes its darkness is as light,
prayers in the evening sung with antiphon,
psalms in the morning waking up the dawn.
4. Stay with your own who journey on the earth,
give to their life a meaning and a worth,
then, with their conflict finally at an end,
show them eternal pleasures you intend.

10 10 10 10 alt. Chris Nelson 2018

1. Savior, again to your dear name we raise
with one accord our parting hymn of praise;
once more we bless you ere our worship cease,
then, lowly bending, wait your word of peace.
2. Grant us your peace upon our homeward way;
with you began, with you shall end the day;
guard all the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
that in this house have called upon your name.
3. Grant us your peace, Lord, through the coming night;
for us transform its darkness into light.
Keep us from harm and danger till the dawn;
your evening presence promise to your own.
4. Grant us your peace throughout our earthly life,
our balm in sorrow, and our stay in strife;
then, when your voice shall bid our conflict cease,
call us, O Lord, to your eternal peace.

John Ellerton 1880

Ambassadors for Christ
ELW 538

1. Ambassadors for Christ
with hands to serve and give
a summons that sufficed
to make the place we live . . .

The angels are not sent,
in splendor to proclaim,
to do what we were meant
to do in Jesus' name,
what falls to you and me,
to creatures that are free,
to worship as we pray
for sustenance today.

6666 66666666 Chris Nelson 2018

1. The Lord now sends us forth
with hands to serve and give,
to make of all the earth
a better place to live.

The angels are not sent
into our world of pain
to do what we were meant
to do in Jesus' name;
that falls to you and me
and all who are made free.
Help us, O Lord, we pray,
to do your will today.

translated from the Spanish by
Gerhard M. Cartford 1998

Christ, whose glory fills the skies
ELW 353

1. Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the one and only light,
Sun of righteousness arise
over all the shades of night.
Dayspring from on high, be near,
Daystar, in my heart appear.
2. Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by you,
on the day's return forlorn
till I see the good and true.
Inward light is what I need,
merciful and kind indeed.
3. Visit my expectant soul,
pierce the gloom of sin and grief,
warm me with divine control,
scatter all my unbelief.
Shine your radiant healing beam
on the world that you redeem.

77 77 77 alt. Chris Nelson 2018

1. Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true and only light,
Sun of righteousness arise,
triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.
2. Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return,
till thy mercy's beams I see,
till they inward light impart,
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
3. Visit then this soul of mine,
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, radiancy divine,
scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.

Charles Wesley 1760

Morning has broken
ELW 556

1. Morning has broken
out as a token,
blackbird has spoken
music conferred.
Praise for the winging
melody bringing,
all of them springing
fresh from the Word!

2. Raindrops are falling
dryness forestalling,
heaven recalling
dew on the grass.
Praise for the sweetness
found in completeness,
scenting the neatness
meant to surpass.

3. Sunlight is streaming
darkness redeeming,
creatures of dreaming
Eden at play.
Praise with elation
living relation,
God in creation
new every day!

5554D alt. Chris Nelson 2018

1. Morning has broken
like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken
like the first bird.
Praise for the singing!
Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing
fresh from the Word!

2. Sweet the rain's new fall,
sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall
on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness
of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness
where God's feet pass.

3. Mine is the sunlight!
Mine is the morning,
born of the one light
Eden saw play!
Praise with elation,
praise ev'ry morning,
God's recreation
of the new day!

Eleanor Farjeon 1950

Now rest beneath night's shadow
ELW 568

1-20

1. As night in shadow passes
through fields of waving grasses,
in slumber lies the world.
But you, my heart, awaking,
of prayer and psalm partaking,
let praises be to God unfurled.

2. Lord Jesus, as I'm singing,
let messengers be winging
above me to provide
protection from intrusions
of darkness and illusions
that me from your concern would hide.

3. Belov-ed, rest securely,
for Providence will surely
sustain you in the right,
increase your comprehension
of angels at attention
who watch you in your beds at night.

776 778 alt. Chris Nelson 2019

1. Now rest beneath night's shadow
the woodland, field, and meadow -
the world in slumber lies.
But you, my heart, awaking
and prayer and music making:
let praise to your creator rise.

2. Lord Jesus, since you love me,
now spread your wings above me
and shield me from alarm.
Though evil would assail me,
your mercy will not fail me;
I rest in you protecting arm.

3. My loved ones, rest securely,
for God this night will surely
from peril guard your heads.
Sweet slumber may God send you;
the angel hosts attend you
and through the night watch o'er your beds.

Paul Gerhardt 1660 tr. composite

My soul now magnifies the Lord
ELW 573

1. My soul would magnify the Lord,
my spirit be by you possessed.
My lowliness you've not ignored
as generations call me blessed.
2. To servant-types would you appear
to do for them amazing things.
Your mercy flows for those who fear
your holy name surpassing kings'.
3. The power of your arm is great
to scatter those whose pride demands
you feed the hungry from your plate
so they can leave with empty hands.
4. You give your help to Israel,
the promise of your truth and grace
to Abraham whose children dwell
in Canaan as their rightful place.
5. An anthem to the Father sing,
and to the Son whom we adore,
the Holy Spirit on the wing,
from age to age forevermore.

LM alt. Chris Nelson 2018

1. My soul now magnifies the Lord;
my spirit leaps, by joy possessed.
You keep me in your kind regard;
all generations call me blessed.
2. For you alone, O God of might,
have done amazing things for me.
Your mercy flows; your name like light
remains in time perpetually.
3. Your arm is strong; your strength is great.
You scatter those of proud intent
and cast them down from high estate;
then give the low your nourishment.
4. You feed the hungry as your own;
the wealthy leave with empty hands.
You give your help to Israel;
your gracious promise always stands.
5. Sing glory to the Holy One,
give honor to th'incarnate Word.
and praise the Pow'r of God most high,
from age to age by all adored.

Stephanie K. Frey 1978