

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds ELW 620

1. The name of Jesus reassures
believers when they pray.
It soothes our sorrows, mine and yours,
by driving fear away.
2. It makes the wounded spirit whole
and calms me when depressed.
'Tis manna for the hungry soul
and comfort for the rest.
3. The Rock on which I hope to build
a secret hiding place
becomes a cistern ever filled
with waters of your grace.
4. This name by which my prayers are heard,
though constantly defiled,
can be a worthiness conferred
on any praying child.
5. O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,
my prophet, priest and king,
my Lord, my life, my way, my end,
the one to whom I sing!
6. How weak the good of works alone,
how cold my warmest thought,
but mercy, flowing from your throne,
instills the faith it brought.
7. Till then would I your love proclaim
with every fleeting breath,
and may the music of your name
refresh my soul in death!

CM alt. Chris Nelson 2018

1. How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
and drives away all fear.
2. It makes the wounded spirit whole
and calms the heart's unrest;
'tis manna to the hungry soul
and to the weary, rest.
3. Dear name! The rock on which I build,
my shield and hiding place;
my never-failing treas'ry, filled
with boundless stores of grace.
4. By thee my prayers acceptance gain
although with sin defiled.
The devil charges me in vain,
and I am owned a child.
5. O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,
my prophet, priest, and king,
my Lord, my life, my way, my end,
accept the praise I bring.
6. How weak the effort of my heart,
how cold my warmest thought;
but when I see thee as thou art,
I'll praise thee as I ought.
7. Till then I would thy love proclaim
with every fleeting breath;
and may the music of thy name
refresh my soul in death!

John Newton 1790

Jesus lives, my sure defense

ELW 621

1. Jesus is my sure defense
when so few are truly living.
Knowing this, my confidence
rests in power that's forgiving
all offenses we commit
in this era dimly lit.

2. As my dear redeemer lives,
I to life shall also waken.
Hoping all this promise gives,
shall my certainty be shaken?
Can the Church's risen head
rise and leave its members dead?

3. No, because I'm closely bound
as a branch is bound forever
to the Vine where it has found
none can lop it off or sever.
Even dying cannot part
from its Lord the trusting heart.

4. I am flesh and must return
to the dust of my beginning.
So these eyes shall ever yearn
for the life that I'll be winning
with a Savior at my side
who was once the Crucified.

5. Take some comfort as you pray
for a Church that all may cherish.
Fear not angels when they say
what you're worth will never perish
when the very grave is stirred,
when the trumpet call is heard.

6. Here on earth, allow your hearts
room to counteract the hollow.
Seek the things the Lord imparts
those who step by step would follow.
As you wait your time to rise,
set your sights beyond the skies!

1. Jesus lives, my sure defense
and my everlasting Savior!
Knowing this, my confidence
rests in hope and will not waver,
though the night of death be fraught
still with many an anxious thought.

2. Jesus, my redeemer, lives;
I too unto life shall waken.
Bright the hope this promise gives;
shall my courage, then, be shaken?
Shall I fear then? Can the head
rise and leave his members dead?

3. No, too closely am I bound
unto him by hope forever;
faith's strong hand the rock has found,
grasped it, and will leave it never;
even death now cannot part
from its Lord the trusting heart.

4. I am flesh and must return
unto dust, whence I am taken.
But these eyes my Lord will know
when from death I shall awaken,
with my Savior to abide
in his glory, at his side.

5. Then take comfort and rejoice,
for his people Christ will cherish.
Fear not, you will hear his voice;
dying, you will never perish;
for the very grave is stirred
when the trumpet's blast is heard.

6. Here on earth, then, let your hearts
rise from longings vain and hollow.
Seek what Christ your Lord imparts
while you in his footsteps follow.
As you now still wait to rise,
set you hearts beyond the skies!

We're marching to Zion

ELW 625

1. Come, we that love the Lord,
and let our joys be known
with those who crossed the river ford
to dance around the throne.
2. Let those refuse to sow
who never ate the Bread,
but children of the Father go
where angels fear to tread.
3. The hill of Zion yields
a thousand sacred sweets
before we reach the harvest fields
or walk the golden streets.
4. Then let our singing swell
the sea where tears are dry.
We're marching with Immanuel
to fairer worlds on high.

SM with additions alt. Chris Nelson 2019

1. Come, we that love the Lord,
and let our joys be known;
join in a song with sweet accord
and thus surround the throne.
2. Let those refuse to sing
who never knew our God;
but children of the heav'nly King
may tell their joys abroad.
3. The hill of Zion yields
a thousand sacred sweets
before we reach the heav'nly fields,
or walk the golden streets.
4. Then let our songs abound,
and ev'ry tear be dry;
we're marching through Immanuel's ground,
to fairer worlds on high.

Isaac Watts 1720 additions Robert Lowry

By gracious powers
ELW 626

- 1. Held by the grace we saw upon the mountain
and waiting for the future come what may,
we know that God is moving like a fountain
to greet us with the light of each new day.
- 2. Yet is this heart by enemies tormented
and evil brings us burdens hard to bear.
Then let our souls be sure, when we repented,
of goals for which you taught us to prepare.
- 3. Just when our cup is filled to overflowing
with suffering so hard to understand,
we give you thanks for faith that you are showing
the way with your secure and loving hand.
- 4. And when we think of all that you've created,
the joy we had, the brightness of your sun,
the former times for guidance we have waited,
our life will only then have just begun.
- 5. Held by the grace and truth we were receiving,
so quietly, your presence ever near,
the Word made flesh we go in hope believing,
to meet the claims of every coming year.

11 10 11 10 alt. Chris Nelson 2019

- 1. By gracious pow'rs so wonderfully sheltered,
and confidently waiting come what may,
we know that God is with us night and morning,
and never fails to greet us each new day.
- 2. Yet is this heart by its old foe tormented,
still evil days bring burdens hard to bear;
oh, give our frightened souls the sure salvation,
for which, O Lord, you taught us to prepare.
- 3. And when this cup you give is filled to brimming
with bitter suff'ring, hard to understand,
we take it thankfully and without trembling
out of so good and so beloved a hand.
- 4. Yet when again in this same world you give us
the joy we had, the brightness of your sun,
we shall remember all the days we lived through
and our whole life shall then be yours alone.
- 5. By gracious pow'rs so faithfully protected,
so quietly, so wonderfully near,
we live each day in hope, with you beside us,
and go with you through ev'ry coming year.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, translated by
Fred Pratt Green 1974

O day full of grace
ELW 627

1. O day full of grace that now we see
to those in the dark appearing,
shine out on the earth that we may be
alive to the kingdom, nearing,
the light of your face eternally,
your name to our hearts endearing.
2. God sent us a message just in time
the price of redemption proving,
a babe in a manger bed sublime,
response from our lips behoving
as Jesus, for us in every clime,
embraced our despair, removing.
3. Our sins on the cross, and not his own,
as people their King were wronging,
were gone as the angel moved the stone
that we unto him belonging
might join, as angelic hosts intone
the psalms, in persistent thronging.
4. The Spirit arrived at Pentecost,
the rush of a wind revealing
new life so we might no more be lost
in death and its double-dealing,
this flame, for the ones by billows tossed,
consigned to their wounds for healing.
5. When we on that final journey go
that Christ is for us preparing,
we'll gather in song, our hearts aglow,
all joy of the heavens sharing,
in robes we had dreamed of once below
that saints up above are wearing.

98 98 98 alt. Chris Nelson 2019

1. O day full of grace that now we see
appearing on earth's horizon,
bring light from our God that we may be
abundant in joy this season.
God, shine for us now in this dark place;
your name on our hearts emblazon.
2. O day full of grace, O blessed time,
our Lord on the earth arriving;
then came to the world that light sublime,
great joy for us all retrieving;
for Jesus all mortals did embrace,
all shame and despair removing.
3. For Christ bore our sins, and not his own,
when he on the cross was hanging;
and then he arose and moved the stone,
that we, unto him belonging,
might join with angelic hosts to raise
our voices in endless thronging.
4. God came to us then at Pentecost,
the Spirit new life revealing,
that we might no more in death be lost,
its pow'r over us dispelling.
This flame will the mark of sin efface
and bring to us all true healing.
5. When we on that final journey go
that Christ is for us preparing,
we'll gather in song, our hearts aglow,
all joy of the heavens sharing,
and there we will join God's endless praise,
with angels and saints adoring.

Scandinavian folk 1450
translated Gerald Thorson 1978

O God, our help in ages past
ELW 632

1. O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
the buffets of a stormy blast,
our place of shelter from.
2. Beneath the shadow of your throne
your saints have felt secure -
sufficient is your arm alone,
our vindication sure.
3. Before the hills in order stood
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting you are good
to treat us all the same.
4. To you a thousand million years
have hardly yet begun,
as has the dawn that volunteers
the rising of the sun.
5. As time continues like a stream
to bear our lives away,
it vaporizes, as a dream
that ushers in the day.
6. O God, our help in ages past
when wanderers would roam,
be still our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

CM alt. Chris Nelson 2018

1. O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:
2. Under the shadow of your throne
your saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is your arm alone,
and our defense is sure.
3. Before the hills in order stood
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting you are God,
to endless years the same.
4. A thousand ages in your sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.
5. Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.
6. O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

Isaac Watts 1720

We walk by faith and not by sight
LW 635

1. We walk by faith and not by sight
so let us hear you say,
when spirit-eyes have seen the light,
"My peace be yours today."
2. We may not touch your hands and side,
nor follow where you trod,
but on your promise we relied
when crying, "Lord, my God!"
3. Assist us in our unbelief
to stand on solid ground,
request you in our times of grief
and seek you where you're found.
4. So we declare what we have heard
from him whose form divine
appears in water and in word,
beneath the bread and wine.
5. And when our life on earth is done,
in realms of clearer air,
may we behold him as the Sun
and in his glory share.

CM alt. Chris Nelson 2019

1. We walk by faith and not by sight;
with gracious words draw near,
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke:
"My peace be with you here."
2. We may not touch your hands and side,
nor follow where you trod;
but in your promise we rejoice,
and cry, "My Lord and God!"
3. Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
and may our faith abound
to call on you when you are near
and seek where you are found:
4. For you, O resurrected Lord,
are found in means divine:
beneath the water and the word,
beneath the bread and wine.
5. And when our life of faith is done,
in realms of clearer light
may we behold you as you are,
with full and endless sight.

Henry Alford 1860

*All are welcome
ELW 641*

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where newborn babes can tell
it's better to forgive.
Built of questions and decisions
and a faith that all embrace,
where the cross of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome,
all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.
2. Let us build a house where prophets speak
in visions strong and true,
where all God's children ask and seek
and dream of Hermon-dew,
where we see the disappearance
of disease without a trace,
of 'the sin that clings so close', the clearance:
3. Let us build a house where life is found
in water, wine and wheat,
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet,
where the plan of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space,
as we share the feast that truly frees us:
4. Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
'declare what we have known',
where the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face
that can smile upon the fear and danger:
5. Let us build a house where all are named,
where artistry is heard,
performed and treasured and proclaimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and shouts of laughter
and the psalms of truth and grace,
may this house resound from floor to rafter:

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome,
all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.
2. Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
3. Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
4. Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
5. Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

Although I speak with angel's Tongue
ELW 644

1. Though I may speak as angels do
 who all I do on earth surpass,
 but have not love, I've nothing new
 to offer up with blaring brass.
2. For love is kind and never rude,
 does not insist on ways to peace,
 rejoices not in multitude,
 but bears the brunt till strivings cease.
3. When I was young and immature
 I thought I'd see the whole of space,
 but now my sight is more obscure
 and I would see as face to face.
4. I'll know in full, when life has passed,
 as I am known in courts above.
 Though faith and hope and love will last
 the greatest of these three is love.

LM Chris Nelson 2019

1. Although I speak with angel's tongue,
 my faith, my knowledge all surpass,
 but have no love, my gifts are vain
 as clanging gong or blaring brass.
2. For love is patient, love is kind,
 and never vain with boasting pride;
 love bears all things, all things endures.
 All things must end; love will abide.
3. For now we peer at darkened glass;
 our visions end; our tongues all cease.
 In part we know, in part now see;
 then we will see love face to face.
4. The gifts are many, the Body one,
 and into one are all baptized.
 Beloved, share one heart, one mind,
 one hope, one faith, one love in Christ.

Andrew Donaldson 1995

Christ is made the sure foundation

ELW 645

1. Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ, our head and cornerstone,
chosen as the new creation,
passed away, the old we've known,
Holy Zion's restoration
by the trust in us you've shown.

2. To this temple in affliction,
come, O Lord of hosts, and stay.
You who suffered crucifixion,
hear your people as they pray
for your fullest benediction
shed within these walls today.

3. Here bestow on this your servant
blessings one would hope to gain.
Show the way to be observant
of the things that saints retain
who with true affection fervent
evermore with you will reign

4. Praise to God for sacred story,
for the Father and the Son,
for the Spirit, three in glory,
honored by the church as one,
for our struggle never sorry
while unending ages run.

87 87 87 alt. Chris Nelson 2019

1. Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ, our head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord and precious,
binding all the church in one;
holy Zion's help forever
and our confidence alone.

2. To this temple, where we call you,
come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;
come with all your loving-kindness,
hear your people as they pray;
and you fullest benediction
shed within these walls today.

3. Here bestow on all your servants
what they seek from you to gain;
what they gain from you, forever
with the bless-ed to retain;
and hereafter in your glory
evermore with you to reign.

4. Praise and honor to the Father,
praise and honor to the Son,
praise and honor to the Spirit,
ever three and ever one:
one in might and one in glory
while unending ages run!

translated from the Latin by
John Mason Neale 1850

Glorious things of you are spoken
ELW 647

1. Glorious things of you are spoken,
Zion, city of our God
whose design cannot be broken,
guiding with a shepherd's rod,
on the Rock of Ages founded
such a house that none can faze,
with Salvation's walls surrounded,
marked by gates of constant Praise.

2. See, the streams of living waters,
goodness flowing on that proved
how it makes your sons and daughters
glad the city can't be moved.
Who can faint while such a river,
for our thirstiness, can gauge
love, which like the gracious giver,
never fails from age to age.

3. Round each habitation hov'ring,
see the cloud and fire appear
for a beacon and a cov'ring,
showing us the Lord is near
while your people shout Hosanna,
light by night and shade by day,
safely feed upon the manna,
bread of pilgrims on their way.

4. Let them say of Zion's city,
I was born right there by grace,
let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in this place.
Fading is the lure of treasures,
circumstance of pomp and show,
solid joys and lasting pleasures
none but Zion's children know.

8787D alt. Chris Nelson 2019

1. Glorious things of you are spoken,
Zion, city of our God!
He whose word cannot be broken
formed you for his own abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded,
what can shake your sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
you may smile at all your foes.

2. See, the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply your sons and daughters,
and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint, while such a river
ever will their thirst assuage?
Grace which, like the Lord, the giver,
never fails from age to age.

3. Round each habitation hov'ring,
see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a cov'ring,
showing that the Lord is near.
Thus deriving from their banner
light by night and shade by day,
safe they feed upon the manna
which God gives them on their way.

4. Savior, since of Zion's city
I through grace a member am,
let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in your name.
Fading are the world's vain pleasures,
all their boasted pomp and show;
solid joys and lasting treasures
none but Zion's children know.

John Newton 1780

In Christ there is no east or west
ELW 650

1-20

1. In Christ there is no east or west,
no formal south or north,
but one community abreast
that's emanating forth.
2. In Christ shall peoples see the Lord,
their highest calling find,
whose service is the golden cord
that binds the heart and mind.
3. In Christ disciples join their hands
whichever race they be,
the children of a God that stands
beside the crystal sea.
4. In Christ convene the farthest shores
where life is given birth
whose residents are at the doors
that see the whole wide earth.

CM alt. Chris Nelson 2019

1. In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one community of love
throughout the whole wide earth.
2. In Christ shall true hearts ev'rywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close binding humankind.
3. Join hands, disciples of the faith,
whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God
are surely kin to me.
4. In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north;
all Christly souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.

John Oxenham 1910

Oh, praise the gracious power
ELW 651

1-20

1. Oh, praise the gracious mode
that tumbles walls of fear
and gathers into one abode
all strangers far and near,

Refrain: praising the Christ
whose cross has made us one!

2. Oh, praise persistent truth
that opens fisted minds
and eases from the anxious youth
the prejudice that blinds,

3. Oh, praise inclusive love
encircling every race,
oblivious to the riches of
their social rank or place,

4. Oh, praise a faith that shows
the Lamb upon a throne,
a temple where the builders chose
a living cornerstone,

5. Oh, praise the tide of grace
that laps at every shore
with visions of a wide embrace
not limited by war,

6. Oh, praise the gifted course
of spirits that abide
in Christ their everlasting source,
in Christ the crucified,

7. Oh, praise the Hand that hurled
the music of our days
throughout an eager waiting world,
a gospel with this phrase,

SM alt. Chris Nelson 2019

1. Oh, praise the gracious pow'r
that tumbles walls of fear
and gathers in one house of faith
all strangers far and near:

Refrain: We praise you, Christ!
Your cross has made us one!

2. Oh, praise persistent truth
the opens fisted minds
and eases from their anxious clutch
the prejudice that blinds:

3. Oh, praise inclusive love,
encircling ev'ry race,
oblivious to gender, wealth,
to social rank or place:

4. Oh, praise the word of faith
that claims us as God's own,
a living temple built on Christ,
our rock and cornerstone:

5. Oh, praise the tide of grace
that laps at ev'ry shore
with visions of a world at peace,
no longer bled by war:

6. Oh, praise the pow'r, the truth,
the love, the word, the tide.
Yet more than these, oh, praise their source,
praise Christ the crucified:

7. Oh, praise the living Christ
with faith's bright songful voice!
Announce the gospel to the world
and with these words rejoice:

Thomas H. Troeger 1984