

IN PREPARATION

FOR DEPARTURE

by

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My bags are packed

And I am ready to leave them on the shoreline

And follow Jesus

1

Someday, maybe, I'll be in heaven,
and not so wrought by sin,
so I must prepare myself
for flight upon its wings.

On that day the angels sing
in my very presence,
there'll be no doubt to linger about -
I'll join in that sweet resonance.

Forever we shall raise our hands,
then bow down upon our faces;
in rapturous joy we shall humble ourselves,
and praise Him through the ages.

And written there upon the pages
of that holy book,
I pray I find my name engraved
and not from His presence be took.

As I prepare, indeed, to depart this world, I am, first of all, aware of how unworthy I am to stand in the presence of Christ. I am a sinner, a terrible sinner, and deserve in no way to be called a son of God or a servant of the Lord. Thinking of entering the presence of the Holy One, I know how far short I fall of His holy example...

And in a language beyond words,
I speak with the Lord,
and the Lord speaks with me.
In sounds that are of silence,
the voice of the Lord goes forth.

And so I am comforted, even in my sin;
and so I am made clean.
And being whole in His light,
I hear the angels sing.

(The peace of the Lord is beyond our words.)

When the end shall come,
when the game will be over -

Hallelujahs we shall sing.
Praise to God we shall bring.
As one in His presence the truth shall ring
out for all to hear.

2

To know our place upon this earth
is indeed our calling;
to serve as instruments of His love
and be in His favor walking -

For we are the body of Christ existent
on this created sphere.

The angels they do fly about us,
ministering unto us mere mortals;
they serve as hands of the living Savior,
holding up this simple flesh and blood.

Call upon the angels to sing so sweetly
and guide every step you take;
give your will to them completely,
and you shall find your place.

For the Lord deigns the angels
should care for our humble lives,
and give us our food in its due season
that we might be strong in His Light.

Mere bodies are we in Christ,
simple instruments of human frame,
but yet we have a purpose on this earth:
to fulfill what God ordains.

The angels they are bodiless creatures,
though its form they may presume,
and need us to do the will of God
that their message may bear fruit.

Someday we may be completely filled in Spirit,
like our angel brethren;
someday the glory of God may so be with us
as we take on new form...

But ever shall we be the body,
and the angels the hands.

There is glorious unity in the Life of Christ: in the kingdom of our Lord, all are one in Him. And each has his place, each serves his purpose - each performs the duties set aside for him... yet all indeed are but one, as all share in His Life.

We must find the places set aside for us. We must see who we are and what our purpose is. For all are called; all we humans have been granted a form and a life to fulfill. We must work within that form in order to find the life of Heaven which surrounds us. (We are only so big, but so big we are in being one with all.)

Upon the dawn of time,
 caretakers of the Earth
 were we set aside to be.

To watch over all the animals
 and give each its name
 was our blessed, heavenly function
 on this terrestrial plane.

Entrusted to our care
 was this newborn, God-made planet -
 and to walk this fresh earth
 were our feet formed of clay.

But reject our ordained position we would,
 turning from what was only good.

I fear that in preparation for departure
 we *must* find our roots,
 so soiled over by lives of presumption,
 and dwell as Jesse's shoot.

3

Purity. Purity is absolutely necessary.
Without purity you can go nowhere.
Nothing impure enters the gates of heaven.

And so, cleansed we must be.
If we are to fly on angels' wings,
if we are to dwell in Light -
 all unholiness must be taken away.

And are you willing to depart of your sin?
Will you allow its removal? Will you cease to cling
 to darkness so inviting...?

Hear the invitation of the Lord
and how He calls you to His throne,
and you shall find the strength to leave
the sin the devil in your heart does weave.

Try, yes, and try gain.
Call, yes, and call again.
Seek to sink the Malevolent's fear,
and you shall find the Lord so near.

Departing our sin can seem such a troublesome thing. How we grow attached to that which gives us passing pleasure. And how hard it is to realize the emptiness it leaves with us. And so, how blind we are.

"Depart from me, Satan!" the Lord was able to say in such obvious strength. To turn away from the dark angel's temptation He accomplished with absolute vitality. But we, how weak we are in the face of danger, in the face of that which smiles glamorously.

For easily we fall beneath the devil's spell, and so continue in our self-approved hell - unable are we so to firmly grasp our sin, and let go...

And so, draw your strength from Jesus. Call upon His angels. For the power of Light is leaps beyond the power of dark - if true peace is what you seek.

What is there that compares to thee?
O Lord, why do we from your arms flee?
Why is it we are so afraid
to allow you to take our souls today?

And any vanity will seem to do,
so long as we can hide from you -
but there shall certainly come a day
we will no longer find means to escape your face.

Then all illusion will fall away,
all the lies will die and decay...
Then will we turn our hearts to you?
Then will we seek your love so true?

If not, we will die with our sin,
and never know life again.
If not, the darkness will find its triumph,
and death will reign undying.

So, turn from your sin today.
Prepare yourself for the Lord's coming.
Or you will come to Light too late,
and there will be no time to wait.

4

The Lord may come on any day,
So we must be ready every day.
Offer your life to Him every morning
And ask for your preparation.

Ready for the death of this life
we must always be,
For the Lord is always
calling thee
To come to His arms
and rest in His presence
forevermore.

Each day I wake
and ask the Lord to take me
if this be my day.
Yes, each morning I pray
I will be ready.

Come, Lord Jesus,
let me hold on to nothing
as your angels carry me
to heaven's gates.

Ready for death let me be,
longing for the coming of the Lord;
Let me lie down to sleep
with nary a second thought.

As a babe let me sleep
in the arms of the Father,
trusting in the rest I find
without a shiver...

It is when we least expect Him
that the Lord does come
and takes our soul to heaven.
For when on guard in anxious waiting,
how can He enter there?

Fear not, little lamb,
as you lie down to rest;
tremble not at the coming dark.
The Lord is light and existent always,
conquering all that stops your heart.

Yes, now I lay me down to sleep,
and pray the Lord my soul to keep.

Is there doubt in your heart that the Lord is present in all silence, and in all the words that truly we speak? Is there any doubt in your mind that He stands at the gates and waits? For He is seated at the right hand of God. He awaits our entering there. He whispers to us in the stillness, and calls us to come unto His presence here.

He sends His angels to bless and guide us. He rules over all with a golden hand. The lampstands surround Him and shed light upon Him, though the light itself it comes from Him. And all are called into His courts of perfection; all are invited to sing His praise.

And with perfect humility He accepts their blessing; not a whisper of pride is known in Him. For He has laid down His life for His every brother, and the will of the Father is His desire alone.

Enter into that absolute paradise, and join the angels' hymn of praise.

On a day we do not know,
in a light we cannot see,
the Lord will come and carry us homeward,
to be in His presence for eternity.

5

Am I ready for His coming?
Are you prepared to depart this place?

Sometimes I feel His presence so near me
in my holy innocence -
and others' it seems so overwhelming
to think of looking upon His face.

And then the times that sin does drown me,
such confusion enters in -
so many questions, and so speechless...
having lost my way, I die.

But prayer then does return to my heart,
and given voice renews my soul.

I do so long to be free of sin, to never stumble backward again. But so weak am I, and so my progress becomes blocked by pride or blind ignorance.

Yet the prospect remains before me of doing away with the sin of this world, and living in heavenly peace forever. Still I am hopeful, still I see His Light coming... still the conquering of this darkness continues a genuine possibility.

And steps do I take, progress do I make, as the Lord does bless me so with His holy direction. The hand of God I do often see at work in my day and in my life. Though fear may at times overtake me, forward motion draws me onward...

And when will I be ready?
Will I be found in prayer
and awaiting Him?

Please, Lord,
come when my eyes are open
and so filled with light.

6

When Jesus comes,
when the Light comes down,
when all around becomes filled
with the effusive presence of purity -

When our hearts stop beating in darkness,
when they are exposed to heavenly light,
when there is nothing standing between
our souls and the Father of all...

What shall you say?
What defense will you make
for the sins that have lined your life?

Only that Jesus' blood makes all clean,
and you are so inclined toward Him.

The black spots of the devil's darkness
that beset us in this world
are readily cleansed of all deadly power
by the Lord's saving hands -
if you turn to Him.

But wait not long (call even now),
for there is a motion in the spheres
and the Light it shall soon be here.

If loving my brother I accomplish, if I lay down my life for him, then conquer this world of darkness I shall, and be ready for that heavenly call.

There is no doubt of the Lord's power; His word it is true - and Truth like a sword shall cut the dark and light in two. And the side of life is all that will remain, as the darkness returns to the chasm of illusion from whence it came.

The time of the Lord is nigh, the time when Light shall be born again; and on His shoulders He shall carry His children who wait for Him.

In darkness there is no light;
in light there is no darkness -
the two are exclusive of one another.

And that which is dark shall be burned
in the lake of fire,
as the children of light are carried
to the Father.

Call on the Name of the Lord
which speaks within your heart,
and the angels shall come and bless you
and take away all dark.

Here, the Son of Man finds no place
to lay His head;
and so His disciples have no home
in this world of darkness.

This world offers no comfort
to the children of light;
as we prepare to leave it,
we see this most clearly.

There was no room at the inn
for the Savior's birth;
He had no tomb to rest His bones
upon His crucifixion.

He walked amongst us as a stranger,
not even the Baptist recognized Him -
until the touch of the Father opened our eyes,
all were blind in sin.

Cruelly was He treated
by the officials of this place...
abandoned even by those
who shared His food and His grace.

And so it shall be with each of us
as we depart from here -
we shall see that none can redeem us
but the One whose Word is in our ear.

O what it must be to be ready for such an end! To be prepared for the passing of this earthly illusion and the gaining of that heavenly bliss. To know that this is no place for us, and be able to stand before our persecutors with only love in our hearts... this is what is asked of us.

But the knowledge of the Lord's undying grace shall fortify us in that day; the mercy brought on angels' wings to comfort our souls with thoughts of heaven shall make us strong in the stripping of our bodies.

The Lord has let me know I shall not die a martyr, and so the fullness of the sacrifice I shall not see - but I pray He will nonetheless take all that inhibits me from entering into His kingdom.

All must die to the world
in order to be born again.

Call upon heaven.
 Come, Lord Jesus!
 "The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come.'"
 Let all who seek the Lord say, "Come."

Let your Love rain down upon us, O Lord.
 Let your Spirit fill us.
 Return to us, O Lord.
 Do not delay.

Our souls thirst only for thee.
 You are our resurrection and our life.
 Open your hearts, brothers and sisters,
 And call upon the glories of the Lord.

And some say, "How can God let that happen?" And some say, "Why doesn't God make all things well? Why is everything not perfect?" But do any of these call upon the Name of the Father; do they trust in His Son; do they seek the favors of the Holy Spirit?

When was the last time you prayed that all things be perfect, in God's holy plan? When was the last time you sincerely sought peace and truth? Do you really want the kingdom of heaven to come? Are you truly ready to leave your sin behind - your lust behind; your gluttony behind; your pride behind; all your anger and hatred and greed?

I have met few men who actually desire perfect peace. I myself shudder at times: I bristle at the thought of leaving certain sinfulness behind. I am not ready.

But ready we must be. Call upon the Lord we must. Invite Him into our hearts we have to, if we are to find His kingdom.

And so, ask me not why the Father allows things to happen - take responsibility for your life. Cease your whining like a spoiled child, and see that it is you that cause these things; the Father waits alone to hold you in His arms.

"How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not!"

With a will we have been given,
We must come unto our God;
For He will not force our hands,
Though we desire what we should not.

Strive to find the Light of God;
Prepare yourselves to receive His grace.
Call upon His blessing, children,
And from you He will not hide His face.

But if you weakly and with unresolve,
Vainly speak His Name in prayer -
He will fly from you as swiftly as an eagle
And leave you to your despair.

If His word is in our hearts and upon our lips,
His Spirit, too, shall be there.

9

Amen. And again I say, "Come!"
Come, Lord Jesus,
To fill our hearts and hands and voices
With the glory of your presence.

Come, Lord Jesus, Come!
Let nothing hinder us from coming unto you.
Let no darkness hide our eyes
from seeing thy holy face.

And let all thy holy angels
fly down and surround our souls -
let thy band of saints and prophets
pray for our repose.

Let the Light of the Lord fall all about us
and strip us clean of that which hangs upon us,
that which mires us in this earth.

Yes, I would I were ready
for the coming of thy heaven,
for thy blessed paradise -
I would my life were right.

The life of the Lord exists in all around us, and within us, and if it were not that we hid this life by the darkness we make with our own unholy hands, we would indeed live eternally in love with the Lord and all our brothers and sisters.

Pray, therefore. Pray that the veil shall be removed from thine eyes. Pray that you shall see things set aright. Pray that the darkness around us not enter into us, that we shall be free of the devil's illusion. Pray that we shall 'scape the serpent and his devices. Pray that our flesh may not hinder us. Pray that the world and all its temptations be blown away by a single breath from the Lord's mouth. Pray we shall see heaven.

It is our very souls that are at stake in the lives we lead, in the steps we take. What we make of our time upon this earth, in our time within this skin, shall bring us to resurrection, or damn us in eternal hell. And so, what should we do but call upon the Lord to protect our souls, and call upon His angels to guard our lives, and invoke His saints to lead us right.

Come, all the host of heaven.
Come, Michael and your angel band.
Come, Peter and the Lord's blessed disciples.
Come, Mary, Mother of God.

Come, all you holy martyrs.
Come, all you blessed saints.
Come, all ye who have done His will -
Pray for the sanctification of our hearts.

That we might see what thou dost see.
That we might be where you are now.
That all might come unto His presence.
That before His throne we may bow.

Praise the Lord, now and forever.
Allow the Lord to work in your hearts.
May your soul be purged completely,
That life alone may be your part.

(Never forget to call His name.
Never forget to sing His praise.
And never will you be removed
From the glory rooted in truth.)

10

Sanctify my life completely;
make it as a sacrifice to you, O Lord.
Let me regard myself as nothing,
for in this is true freedom.

When all selfishness is taken away, when all semblance of pride falls from your heart, ceases to infect your soul - when you are able to give yourself completely to the Lord, setting aside all distractions, all the vanity that plagues this life... then sanctification is possible; then readiness is upon you; then you may become a true servant of the Lord and, so, find His glory.

But sinfulness is so prevalent; the loss of hope eagerly awaits to enter in. The doubt and darkness that assault our frail human minds may be overwhelming - but with the Lord they are as nothing.

It is hard. Yes, it is hard. Because of the blindness that pervades us, because we know not the steps we take and the pitfalls that surround us, so often do we find ourselves beset by sin and its consequences. But think. Are you following the Lord? Have you forgotten His word in some way? Remember. Remain diligent. Hold to that which He provides for the guidance of your life, and you shall be protected from the dangers of this world.

And come to Him when you fall. Return again to His Word. And there shall be light in the utter darkness.

To sleep do not be lulled.
To fear do not be led.
Never be ashamed of the word of the Lord,
of your existence as His servant,
and He shall not abandon you.

The sanctification of your life is a goal most worthy.
The illumination of your mind is a desire most pure.
And if you continue on the road to heaven,
on the narrow path,
there is no doubt but you shall find it.

But learn you must to lay down your life.
Practice you must putting all else aside.
For holding to any vain image of this world
will only bring your demise.

The road is difficult, O Lord,
and so few there are who find their way to you.
Please protect us in our struggles,
and give us light to see us through.

(Take, O Lord, the blindness from my eyes.)

Ignorance must be dispatched from our midst.
 Gone it must be from our presence.
 In light alone we must dwell,
 if in thorough readiness we are to stand.

The dark corners of our minds and lives
 must be cleansed completely by His wisdom:
 No confusion should remain,
 if it is His will we hope to attain.

For what strength shall we indeed find
 engaged in the devil's guessing game?
 With veiled eyes and lacking knowledge,
 how can we expect to overcome?

Only the light found in the Lord,
 in sitting at His holy feet,
 in breathing in His life-giving word -
 in ears and hearts open to His voice...

Only in this suffusion of His direction
 will we find our way to heaven.

Teach me, O Lord, your ways.
 Leave me not to my own accord.
 Lend no satisfaction to plans hatched in blindness;
 Open my eyes, that I might see.

For without thy hand of guidance,
 without your leading me -
 I shall end in hell despairing
 the ways that have o'er taken me.

To what end shall we attain, if without the Lord we
 live our lives in this world? Where shall these steps of
 ignorance lead us, bereft of light as we are? And even with

the slightest impurity of will, how we suffer being led astray... Only in total subjugation to God shall we find our freedom.

For otherwise in Daedalian labyrinths we shall find ourselves, with no wings to effect our escape. Otherwise, there shall always be something to distract and confuse us, as our tails we chase. Unless we give absolute surrender to our God and Maker, ill-wrought will we ever be.

For the human mind is born of darkness; only that which is divine is endowed with eyes that see. And how can the blind lead anyone, except it be into a pit of despair.

Be fooled not, children,
by deceptive lights that glare -
their wax is quickly spent and gone.
Only that borne by the Savior
bears the truth that shall live on.

So, linger not in the dark of lies,
grasping in confusion -
Open your mind to the light of the Lord,
and do let His truth in.

And the clarity of purpose that you find
will surprise and please you.
And the peace which it brings
will never really leave you.

For the Light and Love of our God
are eternally bred within us;
and if understanding we seek,
we need only open to what the Lord gives us.

“If then your whole body is full of light,
having no part dark,
it will be wholly bright,
as when a lamp with its rays gives you light.”

He is the Light of the world;
become as children of His Light.

What greater blessing is there
than obedience to the Lord?
What need we but to hear His voice
and heed His call?

If we follow where He leads,
where shall we be but paradise?
For if we follow where He leads,
we shall be with Him.

Bless us with obedience, O Lord.
May our hearts be open
to the holy gift of your word.

In blessed obedience, in humbling ourselves as dust
beneath the mighty Hand of God -
what freedom shall we know,
what glory shall we taste.

Remember, children, that you were born of dust,
let this truth never escape your mind.
Reject not the hand of the Potter
that has formed you as clay.

Align yourselves with His holy will,
as you are meant to do,
and His glory shall be yours.

For what more is there to do than this -
to worship and obey Him?

How the world bristles at the thought of obeying God. How mankind shudders to think of laying down its life, of giving up its will, of humbling itself before anyone or anything. Man desires to do *his* will alone, despite its emptiness, and cannot comprehend how servitude can bring freedom.

It is because man has no sense of his soul, of the life the Lord has planted in him. It is that he is so distracted by the things of this life, which are but illusions, that he is blind to the light of God and deaf to the heart that beats within himself.

And how the world does mock the soul that does brings himself into submission, that does begin to taste the holy fruits of heaven, that does cast off the vain desires of this empty existence. For fear, the world does mock. For jealousy of what it does not have, the world strikes out against those entering the kingdom.

But it shall be of no use, for the Lord does protect His little ones. It shall not profit the world to rail against the children of Light and the God whom they serve; for the God they serve is all-powerful, and cannot be fought against. And His children, too, shall share in the power of their Lord.

Come, children, and place your neck
under the yoke of the Lord -
His burden it is light to bear.

For His cross is in line with the wisdom of the ages;
His way is protected by angelic care.
His truth is eternal and, so, salvific,
because it is in accord with the plan of God.

No judgment...
 Not judging is an important key to heaven.
 For in judging comes sin:
 either by condemnation of others
 (which must be left only to God),
 or in sanctioning that which is evil.

And as we judge others, so are we judged;
 and so to 'scape judgment,
 we must leave all judgment behind -
 for whose sins could stand juridical scrutiny?

Forgiveness is what is necessary;
 the practice of forgiveness leads to salvation.
 For insofar as we are able to forgive,
 so are we forgiven.

And to forgive is to share
 in the blessed mercy of Christ,
 the all-reaching and uncompromising
 love of the Lord -
 whose blood cleanses all our darkness.

We all lie down in sin;
 yet Jesus overshadows us,
 and brings us to purity again.

If we but call upon the Lord, He will indeed cleanse us. For this is His purpose in being born and dying - to offer His life as sacrifice for our sins. He is the Lamb of God offered once and for all, for all our sins.

But do we believe in Him? Do we come to His saving grace? Or do we lose our souls in anger, in hatred, in lack of love? Can we come to love as He has loved? Can we accept such love? Or will we die in our sin?

Judge not, lest ye be judged. Forgive, and ye shall be forgiven. Give, and it shall be given to you.

Hide not yourselves in the darkness of this life. Get not caught up in the ways and the games of this world. Come to Him alone and His way and will, which is so far above the blind limits of man. And escape the judgment of your sins; and so, be born again.

How can we, with limited minds,
hope to judge any of what we see?
Why do we, with imperfect lives,
presume to judge any other?

We know not right from wrong,
nor can we comprehend the ways of God.
For who can see all as He -
to whom this world is as a spec of dust?

If you judge, you will bring yourself into sin,
for you will be following a path
dimmed by human iniquity.
Only the light of reason come from God
can illumine any matter.
(And that light is born of the love of Christ.)

14

If your days are ordered by the Lord,
then, indeed, are you truly free.
If it is His Hand that is upon you,
your path shall be straight and true.

And no harm shall ever come to you;
nothing shall make you tremble or quake.
For the Hand of God protects His children,
and provides for them all they need.

There can be no confusion of heart
when the heart is set on the Lord.
There can be nothing to distract
when we walk in His ways.

And the utter freedom of walking with Him,
the absolute grace we find in His presence,
the abiding guidance that is with us -
can never be taken away.

Turn to the Lord and His Spirit,
and your days shall be complete.

Oh, how can we express the marvelous joy and peace that comes from knowing one does the will of God? How can we tell of the glory of seeing the Hand of God working in our days? In those moments we are so blessed, when the veil is removed from our faces and we sense undeniably that the Lord is present and moving with us in approval of our days - in these moments when we are so ready for His coming, we smile in joy at His imminent grace.

And so ready should we ever be. So present to us should the Lord remain. For only in this state of wakefulness, only in the showers of such epiphany, will we be able to greet the Lord upon His arrival, upon His return to gather us in.

And thus the kingdom is for those who wait for its coming; heaven shall be known only by those whose eyes are opened to see. He whose face is turned away will miss the movements of the king.

Watch over us, O Lord.
Send your angels to guide us.
Lead us in right paths to thee.
Leave us not to our own accord.

Order our days in thy perfection.
Take from us all that is not of thee.
Let us indeed see thy Hand at work upon us,
that we may indeed be so free.

The ultimate glory is to be as His servant,
living and breathing as His body here.
As temples of His Holy Spirit we find our calling,
and so are blessed sacrifices to God.

Clear completely any darkness from my mind, Lord.
Make me perfect as even thou art.
For even as the Father is perfect, so must we be,
and can only be when joined to thee.

The paths of the Lord are holy,
and bring gladness to the heart.
The ways of the Lord are just,
from them let us never part.

For to dwell in the house of David
in the holy city of Jerusalem,
shall cause our soul's fulfillment
upon our journey's righteous end.

15

Jesus is our ideal;
He is the perfect example
of what we ought to be.

May the Lord make us as He is,
shining forth pure Love,
accepting all as brothers and sisters...
living as holy doves.

In His light all may be seen
quite clearly and completely -
for He is all in all.

Make us live as family, O Lord;
In your name, make us one.
As your holy body,
 let us dwell on this earth.

May we follow you so closely;
May all dross be washed away.
Only let us live as thee,
 as children in your holy company.

The Lord is kind and merciful, and shines His everlasting love upon all who come to Him; let us open our hearts so to love all those we meet. Let us serve Him in this world in all our brothers and sisters - and who are our brothers and sisters but each and every man and woman?

So must our arms open, as Jesus' arms upon the cross, to all those in need; thus must we lay down our lives so completely. Withholding nothing from our fellow man and hiding not our tenderness, let us practice the Lord's call, to absolute forgiveness.

O Lord, if we could but make all your children as family in our hearts, what freedom we would know, what truth and utter Love. And so, then we would be so free, free from any sin, because then your blessed grace and mercy would so easily enter in.

Cleanse my memory, O Lord;
I beseech thee, make it whole.
Let no attachment to sin
 remain to hinder my soul.

Let my mind be washed clean, indeed.
May I sacrifice all sin I've known
 on the altar of thy Love,
and so be so purged in thy holy blood.

Let nothing persist to hold me here
 in this world of darkness -
let my sin be as if it had never been;
 remove it from my presence.

The Lord will take the sin
that persists in thy life now,
and separate it from yourself
by a deep chasm.

It will indeed be as never seen,
as if you'd never done it,
for no longer will you cling to it -
it will pass as if a dream.

And thus will you find yourself
on the road to heaven,
well able to live your life
in perfect innocence again.

And love will pour forth from your heart
and overflow your soul -
then will you be as one with all,
then will you be made whole.

16

Prepare your soul as an offering to the Lord.
What more have you to do in this world?
One thing indeed is needful -
make yourself ready for Christ.

Your lives should be dedicated
to the preparation of your souls;
ever and always should you weed out
that which keeps you from being whole.

Find yourself a white wedding garment.
Purify thy life.
Live in accordance with the words of the Lord,
and the Spirit shall cleanse you so.

And a selfish act this never is,
for only in laying down your life for others
will your soul be so prepared.

It is the call of Christ to bare your soul
in order to now make it whole.

Strive daily we should to live our lives in accord with the will of the Lord; this is the only means of preparation for a death so dear. If in the will of the Father, our dying to this world shall be cause for great celebration.

And what joy we should find even in this readying, for as we prepare ourselves, closer come we to His heavenly presence even here, and so that joy we do indeed begin to know.

Step by step we come unto the kingdom, we walk into the presence of God. Only gradually could such a change of station be bearable to us - and so do we grow as a tree planted in good soil.

And when fully grown, we know the birds of the air shall make nests upon our branches... we shall spread the word of the Father out for generations to come.

And so now we must make ready, lest it come upon us as a thief in the night.

Is your soul prepared?
Do you prune the tree daily?
Or do you put off the trimming of your sins
for a tomorrow that may never come?

Know, my brothers and sisters,
that now is the time -
the appointed day of the Lord has come;
the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Jesus He has walked the earth
and longs to work within you,
that you may walk with Him
to the gates of heaven.

Let me stay the narrow path with you,
my Lord and my Savior.
Let me never veer from thy way;
in thy strict limits let me stay.

The sweetest sacrifice the Lord does know
is a perfectly purified soul.

17

In the light of the morning we shall wake -
on that holy day -
and take our heavenly place
at the table of the Lord.

But while here what darkness does besiege us,
what cobwebs have we to wipe away
from the recesses of our minds.

May the Son of righteousness rise upon you
and dispel all darkness from your life.

O body of the risen Christ, how we long for that day
when all else shall fall away, and we shall be with Him
alway.

All that matters, all that should be upon our hearts
and minds is that we are the blessed body of Christ. Think
of all those who came before you, and all those who shall
follow - and all those on the face of the earth today - and in
a sense of unity with His blessed body, you shall find a
freedom so dear. For all your purpose will be to serve His
body, and so any selfishness will disappear.

And having been stripped of pride in self, indeed the
illusions of darkness will fall from you - you will become a
perfect sacrifice unto the Lord.

And the light of that new morning will shine so clear,
as in such purity we stand with Him; and so indeed we shall
find our place, seated well in heaven.

All the saints they are but one;
the body of Christ it is whole
and everlasting through the ages.

Unite yourself with the body of Christ,
carry your portion of the cross,
and in patient endurance you shall find
the light of heaven dawn upon you.

18

You are not alone.
No. You are not alone.
There are many here
and in my heavenly kingdom -
you have many brothers and sisters.

The Lord invites us to lift our heads
and look all about us,
for as dark as things seem and are,
yet He has left us light.

And that light is carried by all His children;
there are many around us striving as we.
And many have indeed given their lives
that we might strive today.

The Lord has not left us alone,
though in the world we find no recompense.
Yet, in the world His blood is poured
upon all we say and do.

And there is comfort to be found
in joining with His heavenly band.

His Spirit is all around us
and breathing in the hearts of everyone;
and we need but listen closely to find it,
existent throughout this world.

Think. Yes, think about all those who have gone before you, who have died that you might live - think of all those who have borne the cross that the Light of Christ might reach to you.

See. Yes, lift your head and look all around you, and see all those who live for Christ. Your brothers and sisters are many here - seek them out and bind them to you.

And be. Be one with them as Christ's holy body, set aside to do His will. Find yourself moving through your days in His Spirit and Light, living alone as part of His form, as one with His saints and angels. And joining with them, you shall be prepared for His coming.

Who are my brothers and sisters and mother?
asks the Lord.

"Whoever does the will of God
is my brother, and sister, and mother."

In the Father we are made one,
and a holy family we become -
tied closer than flesh and blood,
joined together by God's holy love.

May we indeed become one with thee...
humbly serving as did thy mother,
laying down our lives as have thy brothers -
disciples of the Father's Light please let us be.

(The Lord is calling homeward
all His blessed children.)

Love overcomes all fear.
Nothing can stand
 in the all-powerful Light of God's Love:
 no evil remains there.

And God's love abides forever -
 it remains.
Always does God's love call us
 to its protective power.

Cast aside all fear;
 none of it is worth holding to.
Do not choke the life from yourself,
 listening to the devil's voice.

The devil longs to hold you back
 from progress in the Lord's name;
he longs to keep you
 from finding what he has lost.

But trust in the Lord and His love
 will free you from any snares.

And so you shall find
 that on that day
you shall be well-prepared
 if in His love you stand.

Lord, I pray indeed you take all doubt from me, all
the whispers that confuse. Make so clear the path before
me, that untroubled I may lie down to rest.

Let me ever remember thy Love; let it be ever before
me. For its cleansing power overwhelms any device of
darkness. It indeed sets us so free.

"Do not fear; only believe."
Fear indeed is useless;
faith is what is needed.

We shall not die, brothers and sisters;
Those who believe never die -
they have eternal life in Him who made them.
And so, fear nothing of this world.

The Lord's love is such that saves us,
even from the snares of death -
it raises us from the dead.
If we but believe, we will have His love.

And so we shall indeed live forever
in His eternal love;
so clear shall the path be before us,
we shall never stumble.

And into His reign we shall come -
He who is the Alpha and the Omega.

20

The purifying fire of the Lord's Love
penetrates deeply into the recesses of our souls -
and so we are made ready.

But O how painful this may be,
and yet how glorious.
Like a chastisement that brings purity,
so is the Lord's love.

Refine us, O Lord, in the fires of your love,
that your purity we may know.
That we may be made ready to dwell with thee,
cleanse our souls of all sin.

Commune with the Lord deep in your soul, that His love you may come to know. Enter into the closet of your heart, where God does speak in peace, and listen to the voice you hear. The Lord is not far from you; He is even standing and knocking at the door.

He awaits to enter in and wash you clean of the dark impurities that affect your soul. He desires to take away the sin of this world. He offers His blood as the Lamb of sacrifice for the forgiveness of your darkness.

So, enter into your closet; search your heart and soul, and you shall find Him ready to lead you forth - you shall indeed be made whole.

For God is truly present within you; He is here with you even now. Turn to Him that is within, and His will shall be revealed.

If we turn not to you, O Lord,
we turn only away...
and the love you offer
with us will never stay.

But if we come to thee contritely,
if we lay down our lives before thee,
it cannot be but you will be present
and in your arms we will remain.

The Lord reaches out His holy hands
to touch and heal each of us,
to make us ready for heaven...

But we must bow our stiff necks before Him
to find that tenderness.

Come to the well, all those who thirst,
and righteousness shall be yours.
And you shall be cleansed thereby
and made so very pure.

And the dross of your life shall flee away,
as new you stand on that day.

Yield your spirit to the Spirit of God.
Allow Him to do His work in you.
You are nothing and are made of Light
only by the Hand of God.

The purifying fires are upon me,
and wonderful it is to behold.
Entering the glory-filled temple of the Lord
is grace beyond measure.

Watching the Lord work in my life,
seeing my prayers answered...
in my patience I find the power of God
ruling my days.

And what need we do but yield ourselves
to His holy voice,
to His blessed ways,
and watch the Spirit come to life.

Yield to Him, brothers and sisters;
He will make you salt of the earth
and a light to this world -
He will fill you with His glory.

And the way of the Lord is humility,
is sacrifice of our wills.

One we are with all who have come before, and all
who will come after. And I see the Blessed Mother
introducing all her blessed children, all the brothers and
sisters of Christ. And she asks if I did not know we were all
one in the body of Christ.

And a sense of this oneness with all the saints fills me, and burns away the darkness from the corners of my mind - there is so much we do not know, so much that we do not see.

And how can one describe the unity with Christ in heaven, the reality of this truth... it is simply overwhelming. It is absolutely liberating, releasing us from the bonds of self and bringing us to our true calling - to the light and life that is.

The saints and angels are not far from us; in the Spirit they are very near. And their calling is not too difficult - it is light and easy to bear. But from self we must part to find it, or it will remain a fairy tale.

Yielding our wills indeed brings glory;
the poor in spirit find the kingdom of God.
For then the Lord may work so freely,
in hearts united to He.

Then no stumbling block stands in our way,
when we learn to turn to Him.
For what could make the Lord of all to falter,
and will He not give the same to His children?

Fill us, O Lord, with your light alone.
Make us salt of the earth.
May we indeed heed your calling,
and so find blessed new birth.

Then in your Spirit we will be born,
and borne to the kingdom of heaven.

The Church is a nation unto itself,
not limited by any boundaries.
We are a people set apart,
made holy unto the Lord.

As heaven has no bounds,
as it is not of space and time,
so it is with the Church
founded in the Spirit of Christ.

For it is in heaven we dwell,
seated in the kingdom of God -
our souls find rest no place else,
but in the Hand of the Lord.

And so we are one
with our brothers and sisters
throughout this world;
so the Eucharist does unite us.

Remember your family in all the land;
let not borders disturb your oneness.

Yes, wherever Jesus is, there are we as well.
Wherever His holy priests celebrate Mass and consecrate
the Eucharist, wherever His Spirit reigns in the hearts of
men, there His Church is present.

And one with the Church, we are all with the Church.
In missionary lands or in our mother's hands; on the front
lines of this war of Love or where His word has dwelled for
time, and where it has decayed - in every place and in
placelessness (as in time and timelessness), there the
Church of our God does live.

It is an entity unto itself, not subject to human limits,
but dwelling in our midst and within ourselves is this
heavenly kingdom.

Do think of this world of Christ, this holy nation set apart - let your alliance not rest first in human institutions... be loyal most to this land of God.

Christian love does join us all
and makes us an entity of Christ.
One body throughout the world,
all are at home in Him.

Keep this in mind:
that you are seated in heavenly places,
that your life is hid with Him
and shall be revealed one day.

And that day is soon to come;
it is not far off.
So prepare yourselves for unity now...
be one with His holy Body.

Brothers and sisters in Christ,
we must rejoice together in His Name.
Let us live as His holy people,
drawn from every nation -

And we shall surely live again.

23

Patience. Patience is what will take us;
patience is what will lead us home -
for in patience we possess our souls.

In patience we have no fear,
for all anxiety does disappear.
And so no doubt remains to distract
our blessed path to Him.

Yes, in patience all is conquered;
we hold the world in our hands.
Patience shows mastery of the universe,
and acceptance of the will of God.

Patience is the reflection of the will of God,
breathing deep within us;
it is the fulfillment of our faith,
and does indeed redeem us.

For with a blessed patience
we overcome any obstacle
in our walk with Christ.

All things are healed in time, and if you wait, all things shall come to you.

Fear not. Tremble not at the impending darkness, for it, too, shall pass - and not be known again. Through the teeth of the storm do not be afraid to go.

Be assured, dear children, the Lord is with you; He holds you in the palm of His Hand. No harm will ever come to thee, as dark as ever things may seem. None shall remove you from your place.

All doubt is passing quickly and soon shall be completely gone. The truth alone will be made manifest, and our hearts will know but this. Even now the Spirit breathes the breath of life into us, and we are indeed made His children.

And so, why should you fear, when in another moment you shall rest with Him? Why should anxiety grip your soul, when soon you will dwell in your eternal Home? In patient waiting you shall find the conquering of all things of time and the coming to His presence... Open your hands to His touch.

Before you know the end shall come,
and new light will dawn.
Before you find the time to fear,
Jesus will be here.

In a moment that is at hand,
the peace of His kingdom shall reign.
Be only patient,
and the Lord will be with you.

And all doubt will vanish in the mist.

24

Dismantling my sin, piece by piece,
I come into His presence.
The word of God taking root in my soul,
I am born again:

And so I grow into heaven.

The darkness of Satan's been broken down, and removed from my soul. And so I am made whole and ready for His Light.

The word of the Lord does take root in my soul; His law brings refreshment to my bones. Yes, His Word gives life - it is holy and true.

The Lord lifts my head to look upon His face; vanished is sinfulness. By the blessing of His grace, I come to know Him. And though yet there remain imperfections, I see them clearly, and am strengthened toward their destruction.

Little by little, but definitely, the Lord makes me ready for that holy day.

Heaven awaits us,
shining so brightly,
and the smiling of angels
guides our way.

In but another moment,
we shall come to Him,
and be in His arms forever.

The moments between but lead
to His presence;
they tend only toward eternity.

For all is consecrated to His Name -
gone is any vain illusion...
the Lord alone takes hold of our souls.

Flee from us, you Satan.
Leave us this day -
That our hearts may be set on the kingdom beyond,
and not this unholy land.

(Soon we shall be there, brothers and sisters:
strengthen yourself in battle -
call on His Name.)

25

How close the Lord is to us.
How present is He who formed us.
And we need but utter a word
to find Him at our side.

And thus we will be guarded
and guided into life.
And thus will His angels bless us
and protect us from all strife.

If we but call on Him,
we will be drawn
to eternal life.

And in that life is all life,
is all that is contained;
for nothing is except it be
of the eternal life of God.

Here unto us and even now
the life of the Lord does live and breathe,
and if the truth be in our lungs,
His breath in us shall be.

It cannot but be that we are living in the eyes of God;
apart from Him nothing does exist.

In His eyes and in His arms, is our heartbeat born.
Without Him and His only Son, no pulse in us is found. By
His love alone does life take root in us.

Turn to Him, therefore, and find the peace He bears.
Call upon His holy Name, and quickly He shall release you
from your sins. (Let not doubt linger about; open your
heart to Him.)

His Hand is here upon us.
His presence is clearly felt.
In His Light and in His Love
is where the living dwell.

And the angels they do guide us there -
can you not sense their fluttering wings?
His saints they do pray for us,
that we might be blessed in all things.

A prayer is all the Lord requires;
your asking brings you there.
For the Lord He awaits so compassionately
to relieve you of your cares.

The Lord invites us to His Home.
 Heaven is here for the taking -
 if we but align our lives with His will,
 we shall find His sweetness.

"Come to me, " says the Lord.
 "Let all those who thirst come."
 The Father desires to give you the kingdom,
 if you desire to accept it.

(It is here, awaiting your presence.)

Yes, the kingdom of heaven is nigh; the Lord brings it to us and invites us to His presence. And He goes to prepare a place for us. (He wants us to be with Him.)

There are many rooms in the Father's house; it is spacious and wonderful. Though on this earth it seems at times to have been squeezed out of existence, the kingdom continues as ever, and calls us as surely. In a grace-filled life we find the Lord's presence even where we stand.

The Holy Spirit falls upon those who seek the face of God and accept His word of Truth. And so the Lord does make a home within us. And without us we see His Hand at work. (Ever-present and ever-living is our God.)

It is the Father's good pleasure
 to give unto us the kingdom;
 His Son has come for just such a purpose.
 And the Spirit prepares us for such an end.

Yield yourself to the working of the Spirit
 within you;
 come freely to eat of Jesus' body
 and drink of His blood.

And His kingdom you shall come to know,
His kingdom which is within you.
And His presence shall be felt
in everything around you.

And when the Lord returns
on that holy day,
You shall be well-prepared
and heaven-bound.

27

The next moment is never known.
Though in routine we attempt a home,
it is found to be none
when the Light of the Lord is shown.

Frail and fragile is the reality we make,
and oh so human.
It cannot stand the test of time
or the truth of God's Word.

All illusion flees away
when His Son is revealed,
returning to our presence.

In that moment all is known,
for all is seen so clearly
in the unadulterated light He is.

But all else falls quite short
and can in no way compare:
all our plans do come to naught.

Hold us in your hands, dear Lord; form us in your image. Let it be your Spirit, breathing deep within us.

Let us not be afraid to accept your will, to stand in your light, to let all else fall away... take the fear of the moment far from us.

Prepare us for that coming light, which shall renew and change us. Make strong our hearts in purity. Help us to adjust to your perfection. May redemption so gradually fill us, that completion shall be known in each of us.

And bless us all along the way; let your hand always be there to guide us. Give the glimpses of your heaven we need to nourish our minds and our souls with hope in your unfailing light. And come quickly to our rescue when we falter in our wills, when blindly we turn our heads from you and attempt to mold our destinies.

Our daily bread is what we need -

the continual shining of His Light.

Spiritual food to nourish us,

come from the kingdom of God.

Infusion of our souls is what we ought to seek,

their marriage to His Spirit,

and every day closer should we come

to that blessed nuptial.

It is futile to follow our minds;

our wills are so imperfect

and our vision so limited...

only His knowledge is complete.

And so if we go forth to set our path

without Divine guidance -

only lost will we find ourselves,

and so thoroughly blinded.

Yield your spirit to the moment

blessed from the right hand of God.

It is through our sin the devil tempts us;
without sin we would be free.
And so Jesus comes to redeem us:
He comes to take our sin away.

May our sins indeed flee from us;
may we in our right minds be,
seeing so clearly His Hand at work
purifying our mortal lives.

May we be able to stand so firmly
in His presence and blessed by His love;
may there be nothing to distract us
from His divine, holy call.

For to be with Him forever,
in His kingdom for eternity,
radiant with joy and peace and love -
is what for us should be.

Leave off your sin,
and come unto Him.

Jesus is here. His arms are ever open; He waits at all times for you to turn to Him. He stands in the doorway, His hands stretched forth.

His love is indeed redemptive; it cleanses us thoroughly and makes us white as snow. That which was scarlet becomes white as wool. By His love we are made whole.

And so, set free from sin, the devil has no power over us; over our souls, he holds no sway. His words are thereby made empty, by the power of the Name. Nothing remains to lead us astray, when in our hearts the Lord does stay.

So long as we hold onto our sins, so long as we remain in sin, denying the power of the cross to overcome all sin in our lives - for this long will the devil have means to tempt our souls into his vicious circle of illusion. Until we strive to rid ourselves of sin, in our hearts will he speak his vain temptation.

Christ has broken our bonds;
He has destroyed the chains that bind us.
And in readiness should we wait
to receive this blessing.

Devil, flee from us.
Leave off your temptations.
"Get thee behind me, Satan!"

I will draw strength from the Lord.
I will stand firm in His truth.
By His word I will be made whole.

And wholesomeness will be my treasure.
Holiness is the Christian's prize.
Dearly will I cling to the love that heals me.
My sinfulness I will cast aside.

Let your head be squarely set on your shoulders.
Be filled with His wisdom and His light,
and the devil will be far away.

29

What should we fear,
seeing how we trust in Christ?
Why should anything of this world
make us tremble?

If God is our refuge and our strength,
what can break in upon us?
And of what worth are any of these things
about which we fear,
even our mortal lives?

For He has the power to destroy
and to raise up again.
All these troubles of our lives
are as illusions in His hands.

For so great is He,
and unaffected by the things of this life,
that they can be blown away
and restored in but a day.

The day the Lord lay in the tomb,
fear should have possessed us -
but now He is risen, once and for all,
so His grace should be near us.

How prepared can we be if we fear for our lives? If we hold tight to the things of this life, how will we attain to the next?

If we fear for money, if we hold on to lust, if we dread the losing of these sinful things - of what worth are our lives?

The Lord knows it is difficult to set aside these things which infringe upon our souls. He knows how possessed we can become by the material of this life. But in order to find His kingdom which is far above, we *must* look well beyond these temptations. The perverse attachment to the things of creation will only blind us to the presence of the Creator.

He *is* far above us; His ways transcend ours. We cannot begin to fathom the extent of His wisdom; the breadth of His works alone boggles our limited minds.

So fight not against His will or His ways - put your trust in Him, and He who orders all things will care for your life.

There is a wisdom come from God
which orders all things in our lives
and allows us to glimpse His grace
and eternal blessing.

There is a sense in which we share
in God's glory and majesty.
As His children, He has set within us
the light of His being.

And if we live as children of Light,
with open hearts laying down our lives
and sharing that light with everyone,
then the wisdom we share
will become our own.

In the Church of God
all children carry His Light -
sharing it one with another,
shining forth for all to see.

And by the Light of this love
all fear is thoroughly dispelled
and forgotten forevermore.

30

Swiftly the angels fly,
doing the work of God.
Presently the word goes forth
unto the ends of all the earth.

The angels are not bound by time
nor the limits of our land,
and so they carry the message of God
out with hastening hands.

In the snap of fingers there they are,
in the twinkling of an eye -
open your mouth and call on them,
and they shall come quickly from afar.

For we are here within their grasp;
near to them are our hearts.
Upon our breath they wait in patience,
seeking to do the will of God.

The Spirit of God surrounds us;
His angels guard and protect us.
Wherever we turn we find His light,
when living in the will of the Father.

Are we not God's children? Are we not the humans
He has made? Do we not carry the light of the Father
everywhere we are?

Does not the Father care for His children? Does He
not watch over them with love? Is anything dearer to a
father's heart than the offspring of His soul?

Has He not breathed the breath of life into our very
nostrils? Does He not sustain our spirit with that breath He
bears? And will He not protect that life within us from
impending harm? Will He not guard what He has made
from the forces of destruction?

And so has He made the angels and given over our
care to them. And so the caretakers of the earth have
caretakers of their own. And so we are not left alone.

The Lord is provident indeed;
He does not overlook a thing
in His holy plan -
yes, we are in His hands.

All creatures has He set in place,
all beings and their jobs.
The roles we play are clearly defined -
set in stone they are.

Nothing escapes the mind of God;
nothing is lost to Him.
The hairs on our heads are numbered,
and our lives are set upon His scroll.

And so the angels move swiftly
to do the will of God:
every word uttered forth from His mouth
is complete before it touches our hearts.

31

The blood of Christ is poured upon the ground.
He is made to bleed
by man's inhumanity to man.

And the man He is
is the man all are
if in the light of heaven they do stand.

By this holy light do we see ourselves.
In His presence is reflected our glory.
And like Him we must be
if we hope to find eternity.

Yes, Jesus bleeds.
His blood is poured out upon this earth we tread,
and by this we know the Son of Man:
His sacrifice expresses absolute love.

This is God.
Turn not from His agony for our sins.
Face this the Truth of your heart's demise.

For you have pierced Him through.
He has died for you.
And His resurrection
raises you to life.

Be not ashamed to exalt the living Word,
for it is even now growing in your soul.

And when fully grown, we shall be ready to stand before His throne. When His work is complete in us, then departure shall be sweet. For then we shall kneel at His feet. Then He shall lift our heads to see the glory of His presence.

His blood does pour upon us;
it would wash us clean.
If we recognize the sin we are,
we shall become one with Him.

Will you accept the absolute love He offers?
Will you come under His saving hand?
Will you find His grace and forgiveness,
or turn your face away?

The sacrifice of the Lamb was necessary
to make amends for a fallen race.
Acceptance of that sacrifice is undeniable,
if we are to gaze upon His face.

32

All roads to heaven
must go through Jesus -
there is no other way.

There is no road to heaven
that is not washed
in the blood of Christ.

We must lay our sins before His cross
if we are to be redeemed.

For we are all sinners -
if we are blind to this
we are blind to heaven,
and its grace we shall never know.

Into His arms we must come,
to His sacrifice we must join ourselves,
if transcendence we desire.

Jesus is the center of human history, and salvation is fulfilled in Him. In the time before His birth, His shadow was cast upon all that was. His presence is wrought throughout the passages and prophecies and laws of the Old Testament. He is reflected in all that came before Him - in the kings, in the prophets, in the patriarchs, and in the spirit of all. His coming fulfilled the Word: He is the Word made flesh.

And the time that follows shines His Light forth for all to see - clearly, not in shadows. And all His disciples and apostles, all His saints and virgins and martyrs shine His light; they are His body in life. And His light goes out to the ends of the earth even now.

So what came before passed as of a dream - a shadow of the night, in which He is figured. And now the light of day shines forth in reality... And He does stand humbly in the center.

And Jesus is the only religion:
He is the WORD made flesh.
The Israelites are God's spiritual children,
and Jesus is Lord of them.

Only through the line of the chosen,
only washed in the blood of Christ
will we find our way to heaven,
will we discover our heart's desire.

Jesus is whole and holds all truth;
all other peoples and religions
are but myths -
possessing at best shadowy glimpses,
at worst the vain workings of human hands.

For it is not by imagination we come to Him;
it is not by power wielded by flesh.
It is only by the blessed breath of the Father -
only through the Son do we know
the great I AM.

So follow on the path He sets before you;
no other will take you there.

33

On the conquering of death:
Jesus.

There really is nothing else to say: there really is no other way. We cannot attain to heaven unless we conquer death, and Jesus is the conqueror.

Death stands as an incessant obstacle to our coming to eternal life. Our sin feeds and, so, strengthens the power death holds over us. As we continue in sin, we continue in fear of death, for death it is upon us.

And what can cleanse us of this sin? What can free us from the bondage to death wrought by the sin in our lives? Only He who has conquered both sin and death, only He who has both died and risen... only the pure sacrifice of the blood of Christ - only the cross He bears.

The blood of Christ washes us clean;
it pours forth from the Holy Son
and makes us white as snow.

And so cleansed,
what power can death have over us,
as we are so whole?

What temptation can break in upon us,
as steadfast as we become?
And so this holy blood
is the source of heaven.

Jesus has the power;
it is given Him by the Father of all.
All the Son sees the Father do,
He does as well.

And so the power to create
and to destroy
is with Him -
He is Lord of all.

And it is by virtue of His sacrifice
that He gains that power,
that He becomes one with God -
as He fulfills the will of the Father.

And we must do the same to conquer death;
we must give up our lives in just such a way.
Only united to His cross and to His death
will we find eternal life.

34

The angels that fly about us
are with us always,
waiting but to minister unto us.

Do you see their hands at work
in your day?
Do you recognize the signs they give
of His presence always?

They save us from a thousand dangers.
They protect us from imminent harm.
They reveal to us the hand of God,
working in our lives.

They hold us in their arms
and prepare our very souls
for that holy day
when we shall meet with Christ.

And for the word they bring us,
for the message that is their call -
our eyes must be open to see them;
our ears must be clear of all.

The touch of their hands is upon us:
thank you, Lord, for their ministering arms.

Purging and purifying our souls, diligently the angels work - if we yield to their presence, if we make supple our spirits to their movements.

We must unite our hearts with their will - the will that is of the Lord - and so we shall become one with the saints in heaven. For even here the kingdom of God exists in His Church on earth, as long as it remains tied to the angels and saints in heaven.

Saints on earth we become by the workings of the Lord through His heavenly beings. The angels will provide for each of us, if the Lord's light of heaven we seek diligently.

The angels fly in the power of the Spirit to be by our sides in a moment's notice. For the Spirit has such power as cannot be overshadowed by the things of this earth. And so, but to trust in the Spirit and the messengers of God is all we need do to find ourselves in purgation for heaven.

(Hallelujah, Lord, to you, for in your providence you have considered our every need, and made it so simple to fill them.)

The angels they behold the face of God
we are so blind to see.

And, so, pray for their intercession
to be always with thee.

Intercede, O angels, on our behalf.
Protect and guide us from our sins
that we might be so cleansed.

Is there any hope for us
if the angels flee our side?
What will prevent our falling
if far from us they lie?

O angels, I do seek thy aid
in the purification of my life.
Wisdom, please be with me,
that I shall not die.

For I am so weak and sinful
and require ever the Lord's light.

35

Set your heart on heaven;
empty yourself of all else.
Offer all you have and are to God;
pour out your life to Him.

Why should you hold on to any vain images,
the idols of your foolish humanness?
Why not step into the light of day,
where you might likely see His face?

With our hearts set on heaven,
we will be made ready
for that terrible day.

With our lives so purged,
we may stand before Him
and hear His pleasant judgment.

We may escape the thunderclaps.
We may escape His righteous wrath.
We may remain free of condemnation.
But only if our hearts are set on heaven.

Focus your vision on what lies before you. Concentrate your attention on the kingdom of God. Turn neither to the right nor the left in your walk with Jesus. Let His body and blood fill your life.

Your path should be clearly before you; it should be made so straight. Allow no distractions to tempt you. Open your eyes and your heart, and shine your light.

With hearts set on the Lord who is above all, whose love exceeds any known to man, whose power is all-encompassing and truth is redemptive for the soul that accepts its grace - with hearts set on Him, we cannot stray, and soon will find the light of the new day.

He holds new life in His hands and offers it forth for all to take. And if we step straight to Him, the sin which has held us back will break, and that light, grace, and truth will enter in.

Standing fast, we must remain
ever in His presence.
Never straying from His Light,
we will find our way.

Trained for peace
and with hearts of love,
our lives will be meet for the kingdom -
only in purity can we come there.

Holy Lord, forgive our weakness,
our repeated turning aside.
Place your yoke upon our necks,
that we might walk aright.

If we do not adhere to His laws,
if we do not follow His path -
if we do not set our hearts on heaven,
no hope have we of finding it...

And so we shall lose our life's reward.

36

This is indeed the end of the age.
Time has drawn to a close.
The plan of God is come to completion.
There are only years left to play out.

The Spirit of God moves to the ends of the earth.
His Word it comes to fruition.
And even now He is there,
 though we are here;
 and we must come to where He is.

Bearing fruit is all we can do
 while we wait, as He moves.

Jesus is now still and eternal;
He has come home to be with the Father.
Where He is no evil enters;
 where He is there is no cross.

From the Lamb of God the Light goes forth,
 purging the face of the earth.
And soon, and now,
 it will be complete.

Within the fiery furnace we sit and wait, as the flames purge our sinfulness. And we are patient, and we are not afraid, for our God is with us always.

Protected are we, as were the three Jews in Babylon, from the raging fire: it cannot touch those in the hand of God. But yet it rages on.

All about us we see the depths of sin and immorality, of abandonment of holy law - of denial of the Creator. Blinely on, the folly of man pushes forward into the oblivion set before the earth was founded - but no man's guilt is mitigated thereby. (We choose the end the Father knew we would.)

In illusion of power, man devises a reality which cannot stand, for it is as inconstant as air. In truth, all of this world is dead, and will not come back again; only that washed in the blood of Christ has life and will have life in the world to come.

It is closer than we think,
for it is here already,
waiting to be revealed.

Yes, it is all around us:
it has been upon us since our birth.
And since the death of Christ,
the end has been made manifest
for our eyes to see.

But wait we shall,
keeping ourselves free
of the fires of hell.

Though all around us the flames do rage,
here we sit in utter patience -
for the Lord will come and reveal Himself
in a time we do not know.

And so, come death and darkness -
have your day upon this stage.
Soon your illusion shall be cast away,
and the Lord's presence is all we'll see.

All time exists
as one eternal moment
in the eye of God -

For God sees all that has been
and will be
in this moment...
no time passes in the vision of God.

God is one,
and all that is in God is one;
under Him all is ordered in perfect unity.

To God there is no past or present,
there is no beginning or end -
no limits exist to the presence of God.

And so we must set aside our own thoughts
and ways
when thinking of God,
for His vision is in no way limited -
He sees all eternally.

Entering into His holy kingdom, coming into the presence of the LORD - the Light can be overwhelming, and is unattainable to the corrupted soul.

How can we begin to comprehend that which is so far above and beyond our minds? Only in holy innocence, will the light of Truth dawn upon our lives.

It is not wise to overly struggle against the will of God; this shows a will without reverence for that which is greater than it. But God encourages a seeking heart, a soul which would know Him - for it is His great pleasure to share with His children His life and eternal glory.

First we must see what we are, possessing limited perception. We must see our eyes and ears fall short of vision that is over all. Then He will breathe understanding into our humbled souls, and we will have a sense in grace of that eternal vision.

In the kingdom
shines His Light
everywhere and eternally:
as it is it becomes
in that holy day.

In the New Jerusalem all is filled
with the Light of God.
It shines forth from all men's souls,
His Name being written on our hearts.

And there no sun need shine;
no moon or stars are needed.
For He Who Is, is the only light
given there to lead us.

What question could reside there
in such a perfect place?
For there comes to completion
His all-abiding grace -
and there does shine forever
the light from His holy face.

38

He is risen!
This is the truth we hold to.
It is His presence which sustains us.
And so we are prepared for His kingdom.

Jesus stands before us
as he stood before His disciples
upon His resurrection.
He is with us always.

And from His seat
at the right hand of God
He intercedes for all of us -
hearing and answering our prayers.

And so all we request
for the upbuilding of the Body
while here in this world,
is given His holy disciples.

And so they are prepared,
day by day,
and fed on the bread of heaven.

Yes, Jesus is risen from the dead. Many have seen Him, and we see Him now with eyes of faith. And it is this vision which brings us to the gates of heaven.

All darkness will be banished in that kingdom, where the voices of the children shall sing in joy. Only their song will be heard, and nothing will dim the light they shine.

In the kingdom of the risen, among those who have conquered sin and death, there can be no darkness anymore - for His light will clearly guide.

Our hearts are with Him even now, though blindness enters in... but through the distractions that surround us, He remains present, and His saving grace continues to bring growth to our thirsting souls.

The Lord is risen and dwells among us in the work of His saints; and He remains ever with us, until the end of the age.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD.
Holy is He and righteous.
For He alone is worthy to be praised.
He alone is risen from the dead.

For death has no dominion
over the Son of God.
The flesh of Christ is so blessed
and ever in the Father's Hand.

He will not subject His Holy One to corruption;
He and His children will never taste death.
For the Father is ever with the Son,
and with the children of the Son.

Yes, He is the vine and we are the branches,
and it is the WORD of God
which brings growth:

The Father is almighty;
the Son shares that power;
and we are so blessed
with Life everlasting.

39

The flight of angels
is known to disciples
of Christ the King.

For their wings do touch
the hearts of them
so believing in Him.

If Jesus were not with us,
what would we know
of the transcendence
only He brings us?

If Jesus had not come,
how blind we would continue to be.

But as His sacrifice has made real the truth,
as His presence has revealed the light,
as His words do lead to life -

so we are buoyed by the wings of angels,
so we do indeed discover
the eternal life.

In Christ we recover what was lost by sin. In Christ we do become as sons of God again. For He is the Son, and like Him we become.

And the angels do indeed guard His steps; they hold Him up lest He fall (or dash His foot against a stone). And as we follow in His way, so the angels also watch each step we take.

In Him we are not left alone. Through Him all light indeed is known. And that light which surrounds the souls of the faithful is come with the angels.

The mystical is become real by His holy presence. That which is above is come here below in the life of Jesus. The bread of life is come to us and, eating of this heavenly food, thus we find transcendence.

Lift us up, O angels; carry us to heaven high. For by holy Jesus, that which is so far beyond us is come nigh.

How could He ever leave us -
He who was sent to save us?
How could He ever turn away,
He who is only meant to save?

We who are so tied to Him,
so dependent for our breath and life -
we whom He loves with hands and mouth,
whom He heals and teaches truth...

We shall never be abandoned;
we shall have life eternal.

Can you hear the fluttering of angel wings?
Are your eyes open to the beauty in all things?
Do you know His glory in all the earth?
Have you come to new birth?

He is poised to enter in
the heart that does open to Him -
His love He shall pour deep within
by way of the angels which surround Him.

(Open now and let Him in.)

40

By the grace of God
there go I
into His heavenly kingdom.

Stopping never to turn left or right,
onward we step to paradise:
there is no turning back
on the road to Christ.

On we go. Yes, on we go...
The blood of Christ leads us forth,
cleansing us of all doubt and fear.

Feeding on His flesh so pure,
we are made thus ready -
and any other way seems so shallow
when on His blessed path.

Yes, every day He blesses us
and brings us closer
to the heavenly gates He is.

Leave us not alone, O Lord. Where would we be without your grace? The darkness of this world of sin would certainly overwhelm us, as pervasive as it is.

But with you we are set so free; we are kept apart from sin. With you light overcomes all darkness, and makes us whole again.

And so we are prepared by you, by the graces of your Spirit, for you have not left us alone, but have granted us this Comforter to guide us on our way.

So, day to day we do move closer, we do grow into the kingdom. Day to day by the Spirit's light, we conquer the sin and death of this life and overcome the night.

Till that day when we stand with you eternally, praising your holy Name, be with us so powerfully, that your life and ours be never cleft in twain.

O Lord, we are made ready
by thy grace alone -
apart from thee nothing could be,
there would be no way home.

So let us all be awash in thy light
each and every day of our lives,
that our hearts maintain the way aright.

Separation from Christ and from His grace
would spell death for we who seek Him;
we could not continue to be in this life
if we had not a word from Him.

Without His flesh, without His blood,
we would wither and die -
how could we live and breathe
if not as a branch of His vine.

So I pray His blessings be always with us
as we come to His Light.

So gradually...
 So gradually the Lord moves in our lives,
 imperceptibly His life grows in us.

And as we stand at the altar and sing,
 His presence increases;
 though it seems an ordinary thing,
 we grow in His Light.

We cannot say whence comes the Spirit
 or whither it goes,
 but we know by reflection -
 its work is done.

And so we pray:
 thy will be done, O Lord;
 let thy kingdom come.

May the kingdom which is all around us
 and within us
 be revealed and come to fulfillment
 in our lives.

The Lord loves us so deeply, and wishes us to come to that love in a way which will allow it to last forever in our hearts. And so, gradually we come to know what is present in every breath of ours.

Nothing occurs suddenly in the kingdom of God. Like leaven causing the bread to rise, like the mustard seed growing into the tree, like the disciplined soul which is satisfied to bear fruit with patience - so is the kingdom of God. And in just such a way do we find it.

It is not coming with signs some seek so futilely for. It does not move as human drama plotted on a stage. It comes when we know not. It arrives when we remove our hands. It is subject only to the time of God.

And with God a thousand years is as one day, and an eternity but a moment; and so the best we can say is that doubt just sort of fades away, and that which is gradually becomes apparent despite our blindness.

Our eyes open as a child's,
seeing for the first time,
gradually objects become clear;
slowly life comes into focus.

And we must be obedient
to the dictates of this unveiling,
for to rush or prevent the hand of God
is foolish as grasping wind.

Yielding to the Spirit,
allowing the hourglass of God
to move the sand at its own speed -
we will be at peace.

And if at peace,
patience will follow
and in our patience we possess our souls.

And in such possession we master this world,
for nothing can intrude
to break the composure
of a soul set in perfect time
by the hand of God.

42

Though we would in no way wish it,
our assurance of heaven comes
in our acceptance of hell -
if God should so will it for us.

For hell is little more than rejection of God
and His loving will,
which desires nothing but the best for us.

And so the graces of heaven
are poured forth unto those
who accept all that issues
from the mouth of God.

Grinding their teeth in anxiety,
those damned to hell fight eternally
against the love of God for their lives.

But we who relegate our wills
to the loving Father,
accepting gratefully even punishment,
find thereby our happy home.

With all our lives and all our strength, we pray
against the evil of Satan and his damnable practices, which
are known in sin and death.

Earnestly we seek wholesomeness. Watchfully we
guard the graces come from the Lord which have reformed
our lives. Avoiding sin at every turn, we keep our souls free
from all temptations. This must go without saying.

And yet through all we must decide, if the Lord
should thrust us aside, if He should cast us from His
presence, if He should send us to utter damnation - there is
no argument we can make. For we are all sinners and do
this deserve, but it be for the blood of Christ.

We throw ourselves on the mercy of God. We ask in
Jesus' name to be saved. And we have no fear, if we are
sincere, that He will hear our prayer and redeem our lives.
For this is God's will, and this is indeed the purpose of His
Son.

What have we to fear
if our lives are hid with Him?
What can indeed break in
where He is on watch against sin?

There is no need to fear,
for our lives are in the hands
of Him who rules all justly.

Not death, or sin, or Satan
can take what is in God's grasp;
no deception can work its wiles
on those consecrated to Christ.

The Father is provident
and shall take care
of all who come to Him.

So, if we offer our lives to Him,
accepting His judgment in all things;
if we are ever able to abide by His command -
the kingdom of heaven will be at hand.

43

Make me ready this day, O Lord,
for your coming glory.
As I wake,
I offer my life to you.

This new day may I not miss
your gifts and special blessings.
This day may I not fail
to live my life for you.

Prepare me today for your presence,
which abides now
and shines so bright.

We must be ready
to lay down our lives for the Lord.
Each and every day our souls are called upon,
and required by the Light.

So I pray readiness abide
even this day as I wake,
even this day as I write.

Now He calls, and now do we listen to that voice come from God? Now He has ascended, and now He sends His Spirit forth - now all our prayers are answered by His Light.

Today as we wake, we are His Church and called upon to live according to His word, to abide in His pure light. But do we recognize what grace is now upon us? Do we see how we must live our lives?

How else will we come to His glory? How else can we expect eternal life? If we fail to recognize the light now all around us, how can we make it to that eternal light?

Even this day our souls are required of us. Whatever day it is and wherever you sit. Whatever moment you might be caught up in, is a moment in which you must find God.

For His voice is calling all the time, and at all times we must come to Him - for He is coming at all times.

Maranatha!
Come, Lord Jesus.
Reveal thyself unto our human eyes.
But most of all,
make us ready for such light.

Do not push to tomorrow
what is here today.
Do not doubt what is in you
or the Word He says.

Today leads to tomorrow;
one cannot make it there any other way.
So ready yourself for His glory
where you live and breathe, my friend.

In the things you do,
in the words you say,
remember in all the will of the Lord -
and He shall come to you today.

(And soon He will remain always.)

44

Yes, in the moment resides our Lord -
in this moment and the next...
and in the moment encompassing eternity,
He does rest most comfortably.

I say again unto you,
He is in your breath and all you do:
if you but come unto His loving presence,
you will never find Him far from you.

For in the very beat of your heart,
His hand is living;
in every move made by your limbs,
He is at work -

And you need but accept His Spirit
to be set free and live so true.

And so salvation is nigh unto you.
And so the kingdom now does reign.
As you give your life to His Spirit,
so you are indeed born again.

Love. The moment is of love, is found in love. For love is the means to the discovery of God working in your life.

God is known in love. Love is the path the Lord has shown to find the Father. Love is the beat of your heart in tune with the breath of the Spirit of Christ. And living thus in love, we cannot help but step into the moment that is of the living God.

No, He is not far from you. If you live according to His words, if you heed His commands - He is easily found. For God reveals Himself unto children, unto the pure of heart and simple of soul - unto those who believe with a faith that doubts not the goodness of the Father.

And the children of God, the children of Light, live in the moment that is of God; they dwell in the kingdom of heaven. Their angels do always behold the face of God, and nothing can remove them from His presence.

Be as children
if you hope to see
the face of God.
As children you will find the moment
in which He dwells.

For the heart of a child is so open to His word,
the heart of a child is so trusting
and so pure -
and this is where the Father lives.

And Jesus sits at the right hand of God.
He has ascended to the Father
and is now there to intercede for us.
The Lamb of God once slain
now lives eternally in the Father's presence.

And from there He watches over us,
drawing us into His presence,
calling us into His Light -
bringing us to the moment so blessed and true...

For Jesus is the child who leads us
to the vision we seek.

Man is defined by his limitations.

We are not angels.

We have bodies.

We are human: of the earth.

And the earth is found in space and time.

So man is subject to these containments.

Yet Jesus lifts us above our limitations.

He offers the conquering of this world

by the laying down of His life.

But in this world we should embrace our limitations,

for they are a defining gift from God.

Our arms and legs are instruments of action,

and love is our duty to perform.

Until that day when corruptibility

takes on incorruptibility,

in these human frames we closely dwell.

Who can deny what the hand of God has wrought?
Why do we question what the Lord has made? Why do we
fight against our fate? How can the vessel crafted by the
potter argue against the artisan's hand?

And yet man attempts by his own hand to deny his
very self. He chooses often to ignore the flesh and blood
which distinguish him as God's creation, to turn his face
from that of his Maker, and, by so denying, to then imagine
he is master of his own fate: he decides to choose a lie.

But a lie it cannot stand, as can no creation made of
the hands of man. And though his fantasy flail against the
fleshy form, though he seek to ignore this home, it cannot
be but he will work his own destruction. For without
humility we shall not survive - pride is no preparation for
the comprehension of our lives.

So as you prepare yourself for new life,
as the kingdom you seek to find -
do not think destroying this will take you there,
or bring you any closer.

You are where God has placed you;
from there it is you must move.
If you cannot accept your limitations,
you will not be given eternal salvation.

Jesus moves in the hearts of all humans;
He is not far into the sky.
And His kingdom is not there either -
it is indeed nigh.

He has taken human form,
He has assumed this earthly frame,
to show the kingdom is not far from us -
it can be attained by human beings.

So come now, children, to the waters of heaven,
and drink them in with your hearts.

46

All things are done by the Lord for our sake -
that we might see and believe,
that we might hear and understand...
that the veil might be lifted from our minds.

In prayer He spoke while He was here,
that we might come to know the Father.
That in our humanness we might comprehend,
He made clear what was obvious to Him.

He did not need to speak with the Father,
for with the Father He always is;
but that we might hearing understand,
He gave speech to His prayer.

He is the Word become flesh.
He is the kingdom made apparent.
To carve a path and leave a signpost,
He entered our presence by command of the Father.

It is this Word which shall make you free.

Do you understand that the Lord speaks for thee?
Do you see that it is only for you that He came into the
world - that He performed works only for you to behold?
Do you comprehend what He has come to reveal?

He gains nothing by walking amongst us. He profits
naught by speaking His words. The words He speaks of
spirit and life are already understood by Him. They further
not at all His place with God.

For He and the Father *are* one. So what does it profit
someone to speak to himself, to introduce himself to
himself - he already knows who he is. And so it is with
Jesus. His words are but for you.

Listen to His teaching with the ears you have been
given. Come to Him in your human form. Use the gifts you
have to perceive, for He does indeed speak to thee.

Oh, that voice has been given
to the innermost thoughts of man.
For so long they were so darkened,
turned about in unsearchable confusion.

But now that light has come,
the darkness is banished,
and we see clearly what we have known all along.

We needed but a soul to give them voice;
we needed the Son to speak for us.

Yes, His words are light
because they illumine our spirits -
they speak clearly of what is held inside.

They tell of the goodness that is all around us,
which had been hidden so long a time.

Now we find the way to heaven
by the truth of this holy light.

47

Love heals.
All wounds are made well
by the cleansing, bleeding love.

Love is necessary
for the grace of forgiveness
to fill our souls
and make whole
that which has been broken.

Love of enemy as of friend,
an open heart of compassion -
when Jesus reached out His healing hand,
He cared only for the grievous sin
to be utterly taken.

If we do not care deep inside
for the wounds of our brothers,
if we do not bleed with those who bleed
and weep with those who weep -
we are in no way ready for heaven.

By loving we are made whole. When we carry the love of the Lord in our hearts, we know we are His children. And that love knows no bounds in its absolute compassion, for it knows no end to wholeness.

To be whole is to love one another. To be complete in the Father's will, in the Father's world, in the kingdom of heaven - we must know that all are one, and all are deserving of our love.

Only in such laying down of our lives, only in such concern for the life that is all around us and in each of God's creatures can we find our fulfillment in that life.

And when so whole we will know the power to heal that is in our souls. When whole ourselves we will be able to bring wholeness to our brothers. Even as Jesus has done for each of us, we will be able to do for one another.

I cry for you, my brother.
I cry for the kingdom of the Lord
to come upon us clearly,
that we might ever be perfect.

So much sin is in the world,
so much pain and heartache -
death has taken its toll on so many lives
and left them without purpose.

So many tears need yet to be cried
to atone for the darkness pending
to be taken from our midst
and return us to light once again.

As we stand we are far removed
from the love we need to bear
for our brothers and sisters;
and without that holy love,
we will never repair ourselves
to the place called heaven.

Prepare our souls for your coming kingdom, O Lord,
 prepare our souls for your coming kingdom.
 Make us ready for thy glory, Lord,
 make us ready for thy glory.

Help us put aside all sinfulness;
 fix our hearts on your righteous presence.

The Lord is coming,
 yes, the Lord is coming every day.
 The Lord is here;
 in the Spirit He walks among us.

And though we turn our faces from Him,
 He remains unchanged and blessed -
 as He was when once we saw.

O Lord, we would hold thy vision forever;
 cleanse our sinful, mortal souls.
 That we might savor thy eternal glory,
 bring us carefully to our homes.

That day is coming with a vengeance to be served
 upon the destroyers of this earth. There is a price to be
 paid by all who pervert the light of God.

How else have we come to this state but by our own
 sinfulness? How else shall we be treated but with
 vengeance? The mouth of the Lord speaks justice; it cannot
 be bought or sold.

And seeing the darkness that is pending, the fire that
 is to be cast upon the earth - the mighty thud with which
 this world shall fall - to save our souls from everlasting
 condemnation, we must call upon the Lord's chastisement
 in this life. For the Lord loves those whom He chastises,
 and they shall be saved by the purity they find. But those
 whom He corrects not are doomed but to die.

May we be kept safe from that day, O Lord. Let thy hand be upon us today, that tomorrow we may be saved.

Let the sword of the Lord
sink deeply into your soul,
that all dross, all corruption,
be bled from you.

The pain it provides
leads but to life
and is efficacious to your being:
by it you shall not die, but live.

This is the mode of preparation
come from the hand of God -
His Word is life but can be hard.

But to find His coming kingdom
a pleasant, fruitful place,
we must be made so ready
by this redeeming grace.

And if we are to dwell there
for eternity,
what other means will make us
absolutely free?

49

Clarity of mind,
seeing naturally the wonders of God...
no fear overcoming,
no questions to distract.

Whiteness,
a purity of living -
around the glassy sea we stand
in harmony with God's creation.

We are God's creation,
and though overwhelming,
the wonder of this is quite natural -
it beats within our hearts.

God lives in us,
and so the light of the Lord
illuminates our steps
through this world.

Why do we question that which is clear? -
accept the will of the Lord.

There is nothing more natural than God's presence in our midst. Nothing is more clear and whole than the light which comes from God - it shines before us in perfect peace.

If we were pure, if we were as children, living as one with God's creation, as His blessed creatures... if we were as we are, as we were made to be - what pure wonder and natural awe would encompass our days, would fill our lives.

This is as we must be. This is the call of the Lord. This is where Jesus leads us, if we would be obedient to His word.

And so clear our minds would be, we wouldn't need to seek any further. And then so pure our hearts would beat, we wouldn't question who we are. Then would we know the souls we possess, the souls that are so blessed by God. Then we would enter the kingdom, and dwell eternally in His hands.

With eyes open
and brightly shining,
of God we truly are -
and even here we sense the light.

Heaven is not far from us.
Though frightening to our corrupted minds,
eternal life is simple and clear;
it is more natural than anything here.

And when we arrive at the heavenly gates,
it will not seem we have waited long;
we will know anxiety no more -
all will be as God ordains.

And in the will of God all is real;
all is infused with pure, heavenly light.
And so, nothing will be out of place,
or distorted by unfaithful fire.

When there we stand in clarity,
the Lord shall dwell within thee;
and so we'll live eternally,
even as we are.

50

Bodies glorified by the Hand of God,
we stand as one in heaven.
Before the holy throne we kneel
and celebrate with our brethren.

Bodies of light, sons of the living God,
sanctified in His presence -
like angels are we in the kingdom of God.

Freed from all sinfulness,
from all frail humanity...
we are there made perfect creatures,
with nothing left to tempt us.

Once gone on from here,
once resurrected from this death -
there shall be nothing come between us
and our living God.

Then in glory we shall shineth,
His Name written on our hearts.

Walking glorified in the presence of God, indeed no question shall remain; eternity will overtake us, and the life so apparent to our souls will never then be denied.

There is certainly a place of perfection which awaits all our lives, which calls us all forth to its confines. This place of absolute security in the Hand of God is all we seek in our inmost heart. And when to it we do attain, we shall know everlasting life.

And walking in perfect form we shall be, as consecrated entities. Holiness shall mark our lives, in every God-knit fiber of our being. The fabric with which we are there woven will be cut from the pure wool of the Lamb.

The body and blood which come from Christ are far beyond our own device, though well within our reaching.

Yes, this body made wholly by God,
constituted by the subjugation of our wills
to His pure being -
this body which is wrought in light,
is made for life everlasting.

It shall not die again,
nor grow old;
no sickness shall ever touch it.
It will not need earthly food to eat
or to be refreshed by sleeping.

Perfected in form and function,
no longer tied to this world's laws,
our bodies shall be free to breathe.

As one with one another then,
as one with our Lord and God...
the lines of our figures
drawn directly by Him -

no longer will we be unforgiven.

51

Life is a preparation for death,
and through death we find heaven.

There is a death we all must die -
a death to this life.
All must be abandoned to God.

Only in God is true life found,
a life that lasts forever -
and the life of this world
is opposed to that life,
and so must be relinquished.

Yes, readiness for death
is our purpose in life,
a preparation for departure -

yet through it all
we know in our hearts
there is no death for us...

Those in the Lord shall never die.

We cannot come there unless we leave here. And though the Spirit is here to guide us through this life, and Jesus has been here and trodden this earth - yet it must be left behind to come to fulfillment in eternal life.

There is purpose here. We have a call from the Lord. We are not left alone. Yet in and of this place cannot be found fulfillment in God the Father. Only absolute surrender of this life, only the laying down of our lives, will bring us to the freedom of heaven.

And so, become increasingly prepared to leave this world and all it holds, to hold no attachment to these things. Do all as if you are not doing it; speak all as if you are not speaking; know always that the end is near, and closer will you come to heaven.

Love the Lord your God with all your lives, and cast all your burdens upon Him.

Are you ready to leave here?
At a time you do not know
eternity will be upon you.
Will it be a happy surprise?

Will He find you awake and ready?
Will you be so prepared?
Are you yet conditioned
by the ways of this world,
or are you longing for the true path?

In faith the saints have died,
expectant of a greater glory;
humbled under the Hand of God,
they are certainly exalted.

Is such a faith dwelling in your heart?
Is such readiness being nurtured?
The gates of heaven await your arrival
when you have departed here.

May you be thoroughly prepared.

Hidden in the wounds of Christ,
 we find the incubation
 of our spirit.
 In this place so blessed with light,
 our very souls are driven.

And to the cross we come
 with mouths open wide in awe
 and hearts with loved outpoured.
 It is here in His sacrifice
 heaven is born in us.

Refuge we take in the scars of our Savior,
 for they are a lasting sign
 of the love He bears.
 A home and confidence we find within
 the bleeding heart of Jesus.

Without the cleansing of such blood,
 heaven would be unattainable;
 but with this sacrifice so utterly humble,
 we now may be made whole.

Put your fingers in His hands and in His side; continue not in doubt. He has suffered this sacrifice to show how love is able to will out. Despite the darkness you may find dwelling all around you, in the hands of such love divine comes the light of salvation.

Heaven only may be attained through such humbleness, through such holiness. If we attach ourselves not to His cross, we shall never find ourselves citizens in His kingdom. Falling short of knowing such compassion, we fall short of knowing such life.

Do not fear to come unto the wounds of Christ, to suffer as He has; for if you are able to suffer so for your fellow man, you will find yourself a blessed part of God's heavenly plan.

The wounds of Christ are our home here on this earth; they are the greatest gift we can receive.

Rest well in my wounds,
says the Lord.
In these caves you shall find peace
and shelter from the burning light of day.

This day we're in can be most trying;
with temptations it is often wrought.
This side of heaven, patience is tested -
sometimes all may seem for naught.

But in the scars of Christ we find repose
and refreshment for our souls.
The love that bleeds there takes us in
and showers upon us redemptive blessings.

God provided such a Savior,
knowing our need for a love so total;
He leaves with us this sign of love
to lead us on our way.

Let your soul rest now and always
in the hidden graces of these wounds.

53

I know I must be cleansed of sin,
and so I know I shall be -
because I freely give myself to the Lord's care,
I know my faith shall save me:

Nothing can keep the willing heart
from receiving the Lord's graces.

Recognizing my sinfulness
and its need for cleansing,
and with a belief in the power of the Spirit
and the blood of Christ -
I shall be thus made whole.

For necessity does bring results
and truth is a great redeemer;
admit the guilt you carry about
and it shall be lifted from you.

And you shall be set so free
to come to the kingdom of heaven -
your sin from you shall certainly flee
if you but make true confession.

Sin must be uprooted. Like a weed that plagues a garden, it must be thoroughly eliminated if the flowers are to grow. If we tear only at what is above the ground, sin shall only grow back again.

Delving deep within ourselves, we must discover the cause of our sin - we must determine what leads us to sin. The blood of Christ must sink deep within our soul and heart if we are to find true cleansing.

In the recesses of our being, dark roots exist that seem impossible to overcome. Try as we might, tear away as we do, we seem to only find ourselves in the same place again. But even these efforts are not entirely vain, for we should see ourselves, over time, coming to the light again.

Grace of God we must call upon continually in all our efforts, if we are to make good progress.

Heaven is my desire,
earth is my obstacle;
confusion of the two often brings desolation.

While I am here,
I know I must live here,
preparing myself for departure.

While I am here,
I know I am in sin,
needing to be made righteous.

I know my loins must be cleansed
if I am to attain heaven;
and since I will settle for nothing less,
I believe the Lord will remove the unrighteous leaven.

Come to me, dear Jesus,
and strike this unholy sin from me -
I know that you shall not abandon
any who set their soul on thee.

54

Glory awaits. Glory abounds.
In heaven now the angels
fly in joy,
the saints sing praise to God,
and eternal light does shine.

And when a sinner turns to Him,
what celebration occurs.

We shall come unto His glory.
We shall dwell within His mansion of light.
If humbly we come before Him,
He shall bless us eternally.

As the Blessed Mother is crowned in glory
for her obedience and humble heart,
as Jesus the servant King
does by His sacrifice rule everything -

So we, too, though in human estate,
shall come into blessed, humble glory
and join the angels and the saints.

In that place we shall soon arrive, there is eternal celebration in light. The light of God does shine everywhere, and all are one in Him - joyfully praising in their blessed estate, never failing to shine so bright.

The glory of the Lord extends from one end of heaven to all ends of heaven - and that heaven never ends. And yet, though such a marvelous place of purity and angelic light - there is a place, too, for our humble human hearts: they are made most welcome by the sacrifice of Christ.

So, do prepare yourselves for such beatific glory. Know that even now the celebration goes on. Confess your sins. Cast out all dark. Come contritely before the Lord; and you will find the blessed vision of this joyful congregation - and you will see that there is indeed also a place for you there.

And so - angels, fly on;
fly down and surround us.
Saints, continue your song;
keep shouting your praises.

Brothers, come contritely to the Lord,
and you shall find your places.

All God's children are called to heaven:
the Savior has made our place so ready.
Do not ever turn away;
keep on walking straight today.

For today shall soon be tomorrow,
and on that day there will be no return.
When once we've come into His presence,
our lives will remain ever in His hands.

So, prepare for that day
which comes like the shining of light.
Ready your heart in purity,
and with the angels you shall fly.

**“They shall hunger no more,
neither thirst any more;
the sun shall not strike them,
nor any scorching heat.”**

(Rev 7:16)

In Heaven, Again...

We shall be together
on a Christmas Day -
and the joy shall be overwhelming,
as it once was wont to be
on this earthly plane.

Though many may be departed
and many set apart by miles -
on that day of holy reverie
all shall be as one,
wearing angelic smiles.

Long it has been,
but length of days shall mean nothing there -
years ago shall be as yesterday,
as together we come
in the moment God has made.

This alone I leave with you
as you depart this place -
forget not the Light instilled in you,
and remember always -
it shall shine again.

