

Life is a Gift From God

Life is a gift from God,
Who ordered all my days
And wrote them in His Book of Life
So I could give Him praise!
He guards and still preserves
That life He gave to me,
And loves me with a Father's love
and will eternally!

Life is a Holy Gift
Which God alone can give.
He sets before us death and life.
Choose life that you might live!
For God has sent His Son
Who could have come a king,
but chose a mother's womb instead
Eternal Life to bring.

Life is the Gift of God
So Jesus did partake,
And took upon our human form
His heirs He did us make!
When we were being knit
He knew who we would be
And marked us as His very own
His Death has set us free!

Text: John G. Fleischmann, b. 1960
Tune: Diademata, George J. Elvey, 1868
Written for Lutherans for Life Liturgy, 1987

Nunc Dimittis

Lord, Your Promise now fulfilled,
And Salvation Blood is spilled.
In the sight of every man
Word Made Flesh completes Your Plan.

In my hands Your Promised Word:
Blood and Body of the Lord.
Law and Prophets long foretold,
Now here present to behold.

To the heathen nations, Light;
To Your chosen Glory Bright.
Lord, dismiss Your servant now;
With Your Peace my heart endow.

Text: John G. Fleischmann, b. 1960
Tune: Vienna, Justin H. Knecht, 1797

Seven Golden Lampstands

1. Seven Golden Lampstands chosen,
Churches of the Son of Man;
First and Last He now has Risen,
Through His Stars reveals His Plan.
He who hears the Words I give,
Let him overcome and Live!

Ephesus

2. Through your work and perseverance,
You have tarried patiently;
Rise again to heights of heaven
Jesus Christ your first love be.
He who hears the Words I give,
Let him overcome and Live!

Smyrna

3. Poor on earth but rich in Spirit,
Satan vows to lead astray;
Faithful unto death believing
Pledges Coronation Day!
He who hears the Words I give,
Let him overcome and Live!

Pergamum

4. Even in the Serpent's shadow,
To My Name you have been true;
Now receive the hidden manna,
As my blessed, chosen few.
He who hears the Words I give,
Let him overcome and Live!

Thyatira

5. Blazing eyes see faith and service
As your light reflects My Love,
In your teaching and temptation,
Set your minds on Things Above.
He who hears the Words I give,

Let him overcome and Live!

Sardis

6. Golden Lampstand, wake from slumber!
Keep in mind what I have said;
As a thief I come unto you,
Will you be alive or dead?
He who hears the Words I give,
Let him overcome and Live!

Philadelphia

7. All will see My Love upon you,
Pillars in My Temple's Frame;
When the trials crush upon you,
I will give you My New Name.
He who hears the Words I give,
Let him overcome and Live!

Laodicea

8. Sing your Amen! Rise before Me!
Neither cold nor lukewarm be!
I will put My Robe upon you,
Heal your eyes that you may see.
He who hears the Words I give,
Let him overcome and Live!

9. O you Lampstands, now shine brightly
In this dark and evil day;
By your potent light now burning
Flood Satanic night away!
He who hears the Words I give,
Let him overcome and Live.

Text: John G. Fleischmann, b. 1960

Tune: Neander, 1680

*To my dear Brother in Christ, Francis D. Bonadonna,
Celebrating his fifteenth year as a Star in the Church of Christ,
June 1995*

Up The Holy Mount Ascending:

*A Hymn for Transfiguration
Based on the Accounts of Matthew, Mark and
Luke*

1. Up the Holy Mount ascending
Jesus' glory now revealed;
Law and Prophet stand before Him
Their true meaning now unsealed.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
His Departure soon to yield.

2. The disciple who confessed Him
With the two were wrapped in fear;
Speechless, offered to build shelter
So to keep the moment near.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
"It is good, Lord, to be here."

3. As the Bright Cloud did enfold them
And the heavens opened wide,
"My Beloved Son, My Chosen"
God, the Father, testified.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
"Let His Word be now your guide."

4. When they heard the Voice, so Holy
They fell face down on the ground;
"Rise and fear not" Jesus bade them
For a time to silence bound.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
As they left that Sacred Mound.

5. Could this truly be Messiah
As they pondered all they saw?
"Was not first the Prophet Elijah
Coming to fulfill the law?"
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
They asked Him in fearful awe.

6. "All will be restored by Elijah--
The Forerunner already came--
As he suffered under Herod,
Son of Man must do the same."
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Then they recognized his name.

7. Praise to God, the Father, Who made us,
Giving us His Son, most dear;
Praise to Jesus Christ, His Beloved
Freeing us from Death and Fear;
Praise to God the Spirit
Trinity, Most Blessed!
Alleluia!
It is good, Lord, to be here!

*Text: John G. Fleischmann, b. 1960
Tune: Helmsley 8.7.8.7.12.7 (LBW 27)*

*Written to the Glory of God and in Memory of
Nancy Sautkulis, August, 1995*

Holy Fire

Tending sheep on Horeb's height,
Moses saw God's glory bright.
Blazing Fire did not consume,
Left the bush in perfect bloom.
"Bare your feet upon this mound
For you stand on Holy Ground."
With Your Presence us enflame;
Give to us Your Holy Name.

Bright the Pillar broke the night
Leading Israel in Her flight
Through the water parted wide
Guiding on to Marah's side.
Horse and rider in the sea;
Fire and Water set Her free!
Purify us by the same
Baptized with Your Holy Flame.

Prophets pleaded to their Baal
Shouting, but to no avail.
As Elijah stood alone
Praying that God's truth be shown
Holy Fire came down that day,
Altar, water seared away.
Send this Fire of Truth in Love
On our altars from above.

Rushing Wind and Tongues of Flame
All lands hear the Saving Name,
Wonders of God's Only Son
Sacrificed, Salvation Won.
Jesus is both Christ and Lord,
Crucified, the Saving Word.
Let Your Fire upon us dwell
Saving us from death and hell.

Burn away our chaff of sin
From the threshing floor within.
Hardened ore, our hearts are cold;
Melt them down, bring forth Your Gold.
Make us stand in That Great Day
When the world shall burn away.
Faith, unmoved, in us inspire
Jesus, our Consuming Fire.

Text: John G. Fleischmann, b. 1960

Tune: Salzburg, Jakob Hintze, b. 1622

Written to the Glory of God and in honor of the Rev. Adam Wiegand on his ordination, August 4, 1996

Promised Land

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“I AM the Lord who set you free
To Fear and Love and Trust in Me.
I broke the grip of Pharaoh's hand
To lead you to the Promised Land.”

“No gods will you have; From idols flee--
I covet your love with jealousy.
Above all things I seek your praise;
For thousands, My mercy, who follow My ways.”

“You will not use My Name in vain--
Who curses and blasphemes in guilt will remain.
But call on it in every care
With praise and thankfulness and prayer.”

“You will observe The Day of Rest
A Day that is holy; a Day that is blessed.
Perform no labor in your gate--
My Name to hallow and consecrate.”

“To father and mother honor give
That in the Land long life you may live.
Shun hatred, spite and murderous rage;
Defend all life from age to age.”

“Til death do you part, one flesh you shall be;
Your marital bed keep in purity.
Take not your neighbor's goods or ware
Through stealing, corruption or lack of care.”

“Do not destroy your neighbor's name,
By perjury, gossiping, casting blame.
Do not desire your neighbor's house,
Nor money, nor blessings, nor family, nor
spouse.”

“Speak not to us, or we will die--
Your Law thunders judgment from on High.
But send Your Servant in Your place--
Lest we behold You face to Face.”

“I AM the Lord, who set you free
I sent My *Son*, your sin to be.
I broke death's grasp, and Satan's lie;
Through thorns and nails and hammer's ply.”

You are the Lord-- You freed us to live
Your Law from above and Your Will that You
give!
You are the Lord, the Holy One,
All that is demanded, Fulfilled by Your Son!

To God the Father, Glory bring,
And at the Lamb's High Feast we Sing.
We bless the Spirit by Whose hand,
You lead us to our Promised Land.

Text: John G. Fleischmann, b. 1960

Tune: Wareham, William Knapp, 1738

3 July 1997

Your Light Has Come

Atlantic District LWML Convention Hymn

Upon the formless void,
The Father uttered, "Light"
The universe exploding
Beamed His glorious Might.
Your Light Has Come!
With Grace divine
Arise and Shine
His Radiant Love!

Created out of clay
The Father-Sculptured man,
Rebelling, squelched the Breath of Life,
To darkness ran.
Your Light Has Come!
With Grace divine
Arise and Shine
His Radiant Love!

No light in all the world
Could ebb sin's cloudy flow;
Thick darkness overtook and swallowed
All below.
Your Light has Come!
With Grace divine
Arise and Shine
His Radiant Love!

Begotten from above,
The Word took on our frame,
Pierced through sin's choking darkness,
Light of Light, He came!
Your Light has come!

With Grace divine
Arise and Shine
His Radiant Love!

Drawn to that Risen Sun
With healing in His wings,
The nations leap from stalls of death;
Their freedom brings.
Your Light has come!
With Grace divine
Arise and Shine
His Radiant Love!

Go spread to all the world
His saving beams divine;
The darkness plunder with His light,
His mercy shine!
Your Light has come!
With Grace divine
Arise and Shine
His Radiant Love!

Text: John G. Fleischmann, b. 1960

Tune: Darwall's 148th

18 July 1997

Written for the Atlantic District LCMS

Lutheran Women's Missionary League Convention

Based on Isaiah 60:1-3 and Malachi 4:2

O Flowerets Bright

A Hymn for the Feast of the Holy Innocents

In stable bright in Bethlehem
Was born the King of All
Scepter and Crown of David's line
Whom David Lord did call.
His Kingdom is not of this world--
But few would understand--
This is the Heavenly Prince of Peace
Sung by angelic band.

The star arose upon his bed
In splendor shone on high.
Came sages to Jerusalem
To worship and draw nigh.
“Where is the one born King of Jews?”
The sages did demand.
King Herod then became enraged
For Judah was his land.

“In Bethlehem” the teachers said,
“The Prophet Micah told
‘A Ruler will be born to you
From ancient times, of old.’”
Then Herod called them privily
“When did the star appear?”
“Go unto Bethlehem and search
That I may, too, draw near.”

With haste the sages went their way
Gifting the Infant pure.
And worshiped there the King of Kings
With gold and spice and Myrrh.
Then, warned of God as in a dream,
“Return another way
For Herod seeks to take His life,
His rivalry to slay.”

Too, Joseph in angelic dream
Was warned to flee the land
For Herod sought to seize the child
And slay him with his hand.
“Take Mary and the Holy Child
From out of Herod's way
From Egypt God will call His Son
E'en as the prophets say.”

And when the king had been deceived
His fury burned with might
He dispatched death to all the sons
From when the star gave light.
The First in Israel to fall,
O Holy Flowerets bright,
Stand as a sign against the world
That gropes in death's dark night.

Throughout the land a voice is heard
That ceases not to mourn;
As Rachel weeps for all her sons
Who died when they were born.
Jesus, the Christ for whom they died
Brings forth not peace, but sword
That soon would pierce His mother's soul
When He died as her Lord.

Lord, as the infants gave their all
Your Holy life to spare,
May we, anointed as your priests,
In truth Your Light declare.
Cause us to stand, a holy band
Unmoved e'en pierced by sword.
Grant us at last the Crown of Life
The Christ Child's great reward.

Text: John G. Fleischmann, b. 1960

Tune: Bethlehem, Gottfried W. Fink, 1842

Written in honor of Bernadette Cioch, whose selflessness seeks to still the cry of Rachel in our Land today.