ALL GLORY BE TO GOD ON HIGH

Hymn Devotion – December 28

Scripture: Isaiah 61:10-11

 Jeremiah 16:13

All glory be to God on high,
Who hath our race befriended!
To us no harm shall now come nigh,
The strife at last is ended;
God showeth His goodwill to men,
And peace shall reign on earth again;
O thank Him for His goodness!

We praise, we worship Thee, we trust
And give Thee thanks forever,
O Father, that Thy rule is just
And wise, and changes never;
Thy boundless grace\* o’er all things reigns,
Thou dost whate’er Thy will ordains;
’Tis well Thou art our Ruler!

O Jesus Christ, our God and Lord,
Begotten of the Father,
O Thou who hast our peace restored,
And the lost sheep dost gather,
Thou Lamb of God, enthroned on high
Behold our need and hear our cry;
Have mercy on us, Jesus!

O Holy Spirit, precious Gift,
Thou Comforter unfailing,
Do Thou our troubled souls uplift,
Against the foe prevailing;
Avert our woes and calm our dread:
For us the Savior’s blood was shed;
Do Thou in faith sustain us!

Nikolaus Decius (1490-1541)

Translated by Catherine Winkworth

 (1827-1878)

\*The devotion book had power instead of grace.

 God, Father, Jesus the Begotten Son and the Holy Spirit are described and explained in this hymn – to think that a race is befriended and restored by God - It is well that He is our ruler and we can trust in Him!

1. Who is the glory to?
2. What has He done?
3. What shall not come now and what has ended?
4. What does God show?
5. Where shall peace reign again?
6. What are we to do?
7. Verse 2: What are all the things we do forever?
8. What are the things of the Father?
9. What is the extent of His grace?
10. What does He do?
11. How do we feel about Him being Ruler?
12. Verse 3: How is Jesus described?
13. What has He restored and what does He gather?
14. Who is enthroned on high?
15. What do we want Him to behold?
16. What do we want Him to do about what He beholds?
17. Verse 4: How is the Holy Spirit described?
18. What does the Holy Spirit uplift?
19. Against whom?
20. What do we ask Him to do?
21. What was done for us?
22. How does He sustain us?

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Hymn Devotion – December 29

Scripture: Isaiah 40:9, 52:7, 10

 Luke 2;8-9

*Refrain*

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.*

While shepherds kept their watching
O’er silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light.

*Refrain*

The shepherds feared and trembled,
When lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed the Savior’s birth.

*Refrain*

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation
That blessèd Christmas morn.

*Refrain*

Traditional spiritual

Stanzas by John W. Work II

 (1872-1925)

 Our job at Christmas and every day is to tell the story of Jesus everywhere so that all might be saved.

1. Chorus: Where all are we to tell it?
2. What are we to tell?
3. Verse 1: Who were watching?
4. What were they watching?
5. What happened?
6. Verse 2: How did the shepherds react?
7. What happened above the earth?
8. What did they hail?
9. Verse 3: What and where was the event spoken about?
10. What did He bring?
11. When was it brought?

FOR ALL THE BLESSINGS OF THE YEAR

Hymn Devotion – December 30

Scripture: Psalm 108:1-4

 I Chronicles 29:13

For all the blessings of the year,
For all the friends we hold so dear,
For peace on earth, both far and near,
We thank Thee, Lord.

For life and health, those common things,
Which every day and hour brings,
For home, where our affection clings,
We thank Thee, Lord.

For love of Thine, which never tires,
Which all our better thought inspires,
And warms our lives with heavenly fires,
We thank Thee, Lord.

Albert H. Hutchinson (n.d.)

 The Blessings of the year:

* Friends
* Peace on earth near and far
* Life and health
* Common things
* Each day and hour
* Home
* God’s love
* Inspired thoughts
* Holy Spirit

 Our response to all of this and much more is we thank Thee, O Lord.

 Our response of thanksgiving and appreciation should be the main subject of our prayers – God is so good – Thank Him always!

1. What happens during the year?
2. How do we hold our friends?
3. What are we looking for on earth?
4. Where?
5. What is our response?
6. What is important to our personal existence?
7. List some “common” things:
8. When do these common things come around?
9. How is home described?
10. What is our response?
11. Verse 3: What never tires?
12. What does the never tiring item inspire?
13. What warms our lives?
14. What is our response?

FOR THY MERCY AND THY GRACE

December 31 – Hymn Study

Scripture: Psalm 125:1-2, 4-5

 Psalm 115:1

For Thy mercy and Thy grace,
Constant through another year,
Hear our song of thankfulness;
Jesus, our Redeemer, hear.

Dark the future: let Thy light
Guide us, bright and morning Star:
Fierce our foes, and hard the fight;
Arm us, Savior, for the war.

In our weakness and distress,
Rock of strength, be Thou our Stay;
In the pathless wilderness
Be our true and living Way.

Keep us faithful, keep us pure,
Keep us evermore Thine own;
Help, O help us to endure;
Fit us for the promised crown.

Henry Downton (1818-1885)

 This last day of the year, it is time to reflect on the past year – we have so much to be thankful for – there are always pain and trials that we have had to endure but we have the Lord to be thankful to for bringing us through and as we look to a new year although the future is dark, unknown – a pathless wilderness we have the light of Jesus to guide us through, help us endure if we remain faithful, He will always be ours and we will be His forever!

1. What are His gifts?
2. How have they been?
3. What are we asking to be heard?
4. Who do we want to hear?
5. Verse 2: How is the future described?
6. How do we want to be guided?
7. How is the light described?
8. How are our foes and the fight described?
9. Who can arm us for the war?
10. Verse 3: How is our life described?
11. How is God described?
12. How do we want Him to be?
13. How is our life described?
14. How do we want God to be?
15. Verse 4: How do we want to be “kept”?
16. What do we want help to do?
17. What do we want to be fitted for?