HOW LOVELY SHINES THE MORNING STAR

Hymn Devotion-November 11

Scripture – Matthew 4:13-16

Revelation 22:16

How lovely shines the Morning Star!  
The nations see and hail afar  
The light in Judah shining.  
Thou David’s Son of Jacob’s race,  
My Bridegroom and my King of Grace,  
For Thee my heart is pining.  
Lowly, holy, great and glorious,  
Thou victorious Prince of graces,  
Filling all the heav’nly places.

O highest joy by mortals won,  
True Son of God and Mary’s Son,  
Thou highborn King of ages!  
Thou art my heart’s most beauteous Flower,  
And Thy blest Gospel’s saving power  
My raptured soul engages.  
Thou mine, I Thine; sing hosanna!  
Heav’nly manna tasting, eating,  
Whilst Thy love in songs repeating.

Now richly to my waiting heart,  
O Thou, my God, deign to impart  
The grace of love undying.  
In Thy blest body let me be,  
E’en as the branch is in the tree,  
Thy life my life supplying.  
Sighing, crying, for the savor  
Of Thy favor; resting never  
Till I rest in Thee forever.

A pledge of peace from God I see  
When Thy pure eyes are turned to me  
To show me Thy good pleasure.  
Jesus, Thy Spirit and Thy Word,  
Thy body and Thy blood afford  
My soul its dearest treasure.  
Keep me kindly in Thy favor,  
O my Savior! Thou wilt cheer me;  
Thy Word calls me to draw near Thee.

Thou, mighty Father, in Thy Son  
Didst love me ere Thou hadst begun  
This ancient world’s foundation.  
Thy Son hath made a friend of me,  
And when in spirit Him I see,  
I joy in tribulation!  
What bliss is this! He that liveth  
To me giveth life forever;  
Nothing me from Him can sever.

Lift up the voice and strike the string,  
Let all glad sounds of music ring  
In God’s high praises blended.  
Christ will be with me all the way,  
Today, tomorrow, every day,  
Till traveling days be ended.  
Sing out, ring out, triumph glorious,  
O victorious, chosen nation;  
Praise the God of your salvation.

Oh, joy to know that Thou, my Friend,  
Art Lord, Beginning without end,  
The First and Last, eternal!  
And Thou at length—O glorious grace!—  
Wilt take me to that holy place,  
The home of joys supernal.  
Amen, Amen! Come and meet me!  
Quickly greet me! With deep yearning  
Lord, I look for Thy returning.

How lovely shines the Morning Star!  
The nations see and hail afar  
The light in Judah shining.  
Thou David’s Son of Jacob’s race,  
My Bridegroom and my King of Grace,  
For Thee my heart is pining.  
Lowly, holy, great and glorious,  
Thou victorious Prince of graces,  
Filling all the heav’nly places.

Now richly to my waiting heart,  
O Thou, my God, deign to impart  
The grace of love undying.  
In Thy blest body let me be,  
E’en as the branch is in the tree,  
Thy life my life supplying.  
Sighing, crying, for the savor  
Of Thy favor; resting never  
Till I rest in Thee forever.

Thou, mighty Father, in Thy Son  
Didst love me ere Thou hadst begun  
This ancient world’s foundation.  
Thy Son hath made a friend of me,  
And when in spirit Him I see,  
I joy in tribulation!  
What bliss is this! He that liveth  
To me giveth life forever;  
Nothing me from Him can sever.

Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608)

Composite Translation

If we are waiting – be willing today to receive the undying love that God wants to give us through grace – What a friend that gives us joy even in tribulation.

1. Who is the Morning Star?
2. What do nations see and hail afar?
3. Who is Jesus associated with?
4. Who is our heart pining for?
5. How is the Prince of graces described?
6. What does He fill?
7. Verse 2: Deign to think fit. What does God deign to impart to our waiting hearts?
8. What do we want to be in the blest body of Christ?
9. What does that supply?
10. What are we sighing and crying for?
11. When will we have rest?
12. Verse 3: What does the mighty Father, in His Son do?
13. How long?
14. What has the Son made of us?
15. What can give us joy in tribulation?
16. What is the bliss? List both.
17. What from Him can sever us?

O LORD, HOW SHALL I MEET THEE

Hymn Devotion - November 12

Scripture – Matthew 25:1-6

Proverbs 7:15

O Lord, how shall I meet Thee,

How welcome Thee aright?

Thy people long to greet Thee,

My Hope, my heart’s Delight!

O kindle, Lord most holy,

Thy lamp within my breast

To do in spirit lowly

All that may please Thee best.

Love caused Thine incarnation,

Love brought Thee down to me;

Thy thirsty for my salvation

Procured my liberty.

O love beyond all telling,

That led Thee to embrace,

In love all love excelling,

Our lost and fallen race!

Rejoice, then, ye sad-hearted,

Who sit in deepest gloom,

Who mourn o’er joys departed

And tremble at your doom.

Despair not, He is near you,

Yea, standing at the door,

Who best can help and cheer you

And bids you weep no more.

Sin’s debt, that fearful burden,

Let not your souls distress;

Your guilt the Lord will pardon

And cover by His grace.

He comes, for men procuring

The peace of sin forgiv’n,

Fall all God’s sons securing

Their heritage in heav’n.

Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676)

Composite Translation

Welcome Him today – accept His love, His forgiveness and the gift of eternal life with Him and rejoice!

1. What are the two concerns?
2. Who longs to greet Him?
3. What is all of this to us?
4. What do we want kindled?
5. What do we want to do in lowly spirit?
6. Verse 2: What two things did love do?
7. What procured my liberty?
8. What led God to embrace our lost and fallen race?
9. Verse 3: What all does the sad-hearted do?
10. What can God lead them to do?
11. What will we do because He is near?
12. Where is He standing?
13. What does He do best?
14. Verse 4: What should our soul not distress over?
15. What will the Lord do?
16. What does He procure for us?
17. What does He secure for us?

O DEAREST JESUS

Hymn Devotion - November 13

Scripture – Isaiah 53:3, 9-11

O dearest Jesus, what law hast Thou broken  
That such sharp sentence should on Thee be spoken?  
Of what great crime hast Thou to make confession—  
What dark transgression?

They crown Thy head with thorns, they smite, they scourge Thee;   
With cruel mockings to the cross they urge Thee;   
They give Thee gall to drink, they still decry Thee;   
They crucify Thee.

Whence come these sorrows, whence this mortal anguish?  
It is my sins for which Thou, Lord, must languish;   
Yea, all the wrath, the woe, Thou dost inherit,   
This I do merit.

What punishment so strange is suffered yonder!  
The Shepherd dies for sheep that loved to wander;   
The Master pays the debt His servants owe Him,   
Who would not know Him.

Jean de Fecamp (c.1000-1079)

Johann Heermann (1585-1647)

Translated by Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)

The statement “Who would not know Him” – could be a question – because of His sacrifice for us who would not want to know Him as their Savior – Or He died for us when we did not know Him – Romans 5:8.

1. How is Jesus described?
2. What is the concern of the first question?
3. What is the concern of the second question?
4. Verse 2: What all do they do in the first line?
5. Where do they urge Jesus?
6. What is given to drink?
7. Decry is to belittle. What two things do they do?
8. Verse 3: What things are the next questions wondering about?
9. Languish is to suffer. What does Jesus suffer for?
10. What did Jesus inherit?
11. Merit is to our advantage. How is the suffering of Jesus to our merit?
12. Verse 4: How is the suffering of Jesus described?
13. Who is the Shepherd?
14. What does the sheep He died for tend to do?
15. Who pays the debt?
16. Who owes the debt?
17. What don’t they do?

SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME

Hymn Devotion - November 14

Scripture – John 1:1-3, 14

Psalm 67:1-2

Savior of the nations, come;  
Virgin’s Son, here make Thy home!  
Marvel now, O heaven and earth,  
That the Lord chose such a birth.

Not by human flesh and blood;  
By the Spirit of our God  
Was the Word of God made flesh,  
Woman’s offspring, pure and fresh.

Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child  
Of the virgin undefiled!  
Though by all the world disowned,  
Still to be in heaven enthroned.

From the Father forth He came  
And returneth to the same,  
Captive leading death and hell  
High the song of triumph swell!

Thou, the Father’s only Son,  
Hast over sin the victory won.  
Boundless shall Thy kingdom be;  
When shall we its glories see?

Praise to God the Father sing,  
Praise to God the Son, our King,  
Praise to God the Spirit be  
Ever and eternally.

Ambrose of Milan (340-397)

Translated into German by Martin Luther

(1483-1546)

Translated into English by

William M. Reynolds (1812-1876)

Praise to God the Spirit be – ever and eternally – God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit now and forever. Praise be to God!

1. Who are we inviting?
2. Who do we want to make His home here?
3. Who are to marvel?
4. Who chose such a birth?
5. Verse 2: What is He not of?
6. What is He?
7. Who was made flesh?
8. What was He of pure and fresh?
9. Verse 3: How is the birth described?
10. Who is this wondrous Child’s mother?
11. How was He viewed by the world?
12. Where is He now?
13. Verse 4: From whom did He come and return?
14. What was He captive in yet triumphant over?
15. Verse 5: Who is Jesus?
16. What has he won victory over?
17. How is His kingdom described?
18. What is the question?
19. Verse 6: Who are the praises to?
20. List the three identities of God?
21. How long?

WHO IS THIS SO WEAK AND HELPLESS

Hymn Devotion - November 15

Scripture – John 1:10-14

Isaiah 53:3

Who is this so, weak and helpless, Child of lowly Hebrew maid,  
Rudely in a stable sheltered, coldly in a manger laid?  
’Tis the Lord of all creation, who this wondrous path hath trod;  
He is God from everlasting, and to everlasting God.

Who is this, a Man of sorrows, walking sadly life’s hard way,  
Homeless, weary, sighing, weeping, over sin and Satan’s sway?  
’Tis our God, our glorious Savior, who above the starry sky  
Now for us a place prepareth, where no tear can dim the eye.

Who is this? Behold Him shedding drops of blood upon the ground!  
Who is this, despised, rejected, mocked, insulted, beaten, bound?  
’Tis our God, who gifts and graces on His church now poureth down;  
Who shall smite in righteous judgment all His foes beneath His throne.

Who is this that hangeth dying while the rude world scoffs and scorns,  
Numbered with the malefactors, torn with nails, and crowned with thorns?  
’Tis the God Who ever liveth, ’mid the shining ones on high,  
In the glorious golden city, reigning everlastingly.

William Walsham How (1823-1897)

Although we know who the question is talking about it still triggers our thought processes, the descriptions are very vivid - We have to decide if we are His foe or if He is our Lord, God and Savior!

1. List the description:
2. What is being described in the second part of the question?
3. Who was being described by the question?
4. What has He done?
5. Who is He?
6. Verse 2: How is Jesus described?
7. List all the Life’s sad hard ways:
8. Who is this?
9. Where is He?
10. What is He doing there?
11. Verse 3: What are we to behold of Him?
12. How was He treated?
13. Who is this?
14. What is He doing for His Church?
15. What will He do to His foes?
16. Verse 4: What is happening to the person in question?
17. What does the world do?
18. How is the one in question seen and treated?
19. Who is this?
20. Where is He?
21. What doing?

In Christ there is no East or West,  
In Him no South or North;  
But one great fellowship of love  
Throughout the whole wide earth.

In Him shall true hearts everywhere  
Their high communion find;  
His service is the golden cord,  
Close binding humankind.

Join hands, then, members of the faith,  
Whatever your race may be!  
Who serves my Father as His child  
Is surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both East and West,  
In Him meet North and South;  
All Christly souls are one in Him  
Throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ there is no East or West,  
In Him no South or North;  
But one great fellowship of love  
Throughout the whole wide earth.

In Him shall true hearts everywhere  
Their high communion find;  
His service is the golden cord,  
Close binding humankind.

Join hands, then, members of the faith,  
Whatever your race may be!  
Who serves my Father as His child  
Is surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both East and West,  
In Him meet North and South;  
All Christly souls are one in Him  
Throughout the whole wide earth.

Brethren, we have met to worship and adore the Lord our God;  
Will you pray with all your power, while we try to preach the Word?  
All is vain unless the Spirit of the Holy One comes down;  
Brethren, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.

Brethren, see poor sinners round you slumbering on the brink of woe;  
Death is coming, hell is moving, can you bear to let them go?  
See our fathers and our mothers, and our children sinking down;  
Brethren, pray and holy manna will be showered all around.

Sisters, will you join and help us? Moses’ sister aided him;  
Will you help the trembling mourners who are struggling hard with sin?  
Tell them all about the Savior, tell them that He will be found;  
Sisters, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.

Is there here a trembling jailer, seeking grace, and filled with tears?  
Is there here a weeping Mary, pouring forth a flood of tears?  
Brethren, join your cries to help them; sisters, let your prayers abound;  
Pray, Oh pray that holy manna may be scattered all around.

Let us love our God supremely, let us love each other, too;  
Let us love and pray for sinners, till our God makes all things new.  
Then He’ll call us home to Heaven, at His table we’ll sit down;  
Christ will gird Himself and serve us with sweet manna all around.

Brethren, we have met to worship and adore the Lord our God;  
Will you pray with all your power, while we try to preach the Word?  
All is vain unless the Spirit of the Holy One comes down;  
Brethren, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.

Brethren, see poor sinners round you slumbering on the brink of woe;  
Death is coming, hell is moving, can you bear to let them go?  
See our fathers and our mothers, and our children sinking down;  
Brethren, pray and holy manna will be showered all around.

Sisters, will you join and help us? Moses’ sister aided him;  
Will you help the trembling mourners who are struggling hard with sin?  
Tell them all about the Savior, tell them that He will be found;  
Sisters, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.

Is there here a trembling jailer, seeking grace, and filled with tears?  
Is there here a weeping Mary, pouring forth a flood of tears?  
Brethren, join your cries to help them; sisters, let your prayers abound;  
Pray, Oh pray that holy manna may be scattered all around.

Let us love our God supremely, let us love each other, too;  
Let us love and pray for sinners, till our God makes all things new.  
Then He’ll call us home to Heaven, at His table we’ll sit down;  
Christ will gird Himself and serve us with sweet manna all around.