

Buried Talents, Traded Talents

November 15, 2020
MUSIC

Hymn of Praise

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

O beautiful for spacious skies,
for amber waves of grain,
for purple mountain majesties
above the fruited plain!
America! America!

God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with *brotherhood
from sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for heroes proved
in liberating strife,
who more than self their country loved,
and mercy more than life!
America! America!

God mend thine every flaw;
confirm thy soul in self-control,
thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for patriot dream
that sees beyond the years
thine alabaster cities gleam,
undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine
till all success be nobleness
and every gain divine!

TEXT: Katherine Lee Bates, 1893 / TUNE: MATERNA

This text (inspired by the vista from Pike's Peak and by a visit to Chicago's Columbian World Exposition) and tune (named MATERNA because it was composed for "O Mother, Dear Jerusalem") were joined in 1912. The combination proved immensely popular during World War I and afterwards.

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Hymn of Preparation

A Charge to Keep I Have

A charge to keep I have,
a God to glorify,
a never-dying soul to save,
and fit it for the sky.

To serve the present age,
my calling to fulfill;
O may it all my powers engage
to do my Master's will!

Help me to watch and pray,
and on thyself rely,
assured, if I my trust betray,
I shall forever die.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1762 (Lev. 8:35)

MUSIC: Lowell Mason, 1832 (BOYLSTON)

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Offertory Hymn

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken; the wine is poured;
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain:

Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again;
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again;
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Christ is able to make us one;
at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express. (Refrain)

TEXT: Fred Kaan, 1975 / TUNE: LINSTeAD

Music: Jamaican folk melody; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1975

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Hymn of Sending

O Jesus, I Have Promised

O Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;
be now and always near me,
my Master and my friend;
I shall not fear the battle
if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if you will be my guide.

O Jesus, you have promised
to all who follow you
that where you are in glory
your servant shall be too.
And, Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;
now give me grace to follow,
my Master and my friend.

TEXT: John Ernest Bode, 1866