

¶ Psalm 66:1-9,16, 17,19 God, 20

Good News

Praise God with shouts of joy, all people!

2 Sing to the glory of his name;

offer him glorious praise!

3 Say to God, “How wonderful are the things you do!

Your power is so great

that your enemies bow down in fear before you.

4 Everyone on earth worships you;

they sing praises to you,

they sing praises to your name.”

5 Come and see what God has done,

his wonderful acts among people.

6 He changed the sea into dry land;

our ancestors crossed the river on foot.

There we rejoiced because of what he did.

7 He rules forever by his might

and keeps his eyes on the nations.

Let no rebels rise against him.

8 Praise our God, all nations;

let your praise be heard.

9 He has kept us alive

and has not allowed us to fall.

Come and listen, all who honor God,

and I will tell you what he has done for me.

17 I cried to him for help;

I praised him with songs.

God has indeed heard me;

he has listened to my prayer.

20 I praise God,

because he did not reject my prayer  
or keep back his constant love from me.

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¶ Isaiah 25: 1, 6-9

Lord, you are my God;  
I will honor you and praise your name.  
You have done amazing things;  
you have faithfully carried out  
the plans you made long ago.

Here on Mount Zion the Lord Almighty will prepare a banquet for all the nations of the world—a banquet of the richest food and the finest wine. 7 Here he will suddenly remove the cloud of sorrow that has been hanging over all the nations. 8 The Sovereign Lord will destroy death forever! He will wipe away the tears from everyone's eyes and take away the disgrace his people have suffered throughout the world. The Lord himself has spoken. 9 When it happens, everyone will say, "He is our God! We have put our trust in him, and he has rescued us. He is the Lord! We have put our trust in him, and now we are happy and joyful because he has saved us."

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¶ Isaiah 9 :2-4,6,7

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light.

They lived in a land of shadows,  
but now light is shining on them.

3 You have given them great joy,[a] Lord;  
you have made them happy.

They rejoice in what you have done,  
as people rejoice when they harvest grain  
or when they divide captured wealth.

4 For you have broken the yoke that burdened them  
and the rod that beat their shoulders.

A child is born to us!  
A son is given to us!  
And he will be our ruler.

He will be called, “Wonderful[b] Counselor,”  
“Mighty God,” “Eternal Father,”  
“Prince of Peace.”

7 His royal power will continue to grow;  
his kingdom will always be at peace.

He will rule as King David's successor,  
basing his power on right and justice,  
from now until the end of time.

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¶ Isaiah 65: 18-19 (to 1st .)

18 Be glad and rejoice forever in what I create. The new  
Jerusalem I make will be full of joy, and her people will be happy.  
19 I myself will be filled with joy because of Jerusalem and her  
people.

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¶ Zeph 3:14-18

Sing and shout for joy, people of Israel!  
Rejoice with all your heart, Jerusalem!

15 The Lord has stopped your punishment;  
he has removed all your enemies.

The Lord, the king of Israel, is with you;  
there is no reason now to be afraid.

16 The time is coming when they will say to Jerusalem,  
“Do not be afraid, city of Zion!

Do not let your hands hang limp!

17 The Lord your God is with you;  
his power gives you victory.

The Lord will take delight in you,  
and in his love he will give you new life.[d]

He will sing and be joyful over you,  
18 as joyful as people at a festival.”

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## SH 15:25–26

Christians rejoice in secret beauty and bounty, hidden  
from the world, but known to God.

## **SH 326:8**

All nature teaches God's

- 9 love to man, but man cannot love God supremely and set his whole affections on spiritual things, while loving the material or trusting in it more than in the spiritual.

## **SH 3:17–24**

How empty are our conceptions of Deity! We admit

- 18 theoretically that God is good, omnipotent, omnipresent, infinite, and then we try to give information to this infinite Mind. We plead  
21 for unmerited pardon and for a liberal outpouring of benefactions. Are we really grateful for the good already received? Then we shall avail ourselves of the  
24 blessings we have, and thus be fitted to receive more.

Prayerful  
ingratitude

## **SH 76:22–26**

The sinless joy, — the perfect harmony and immortality of Life, possessing unlimited divine beauty and goodness

- 24 without a single bodily pleasure or pain, — constitutes the only veritable, indestructible man, whose being is spiritual.

Immaterial  
pleasure

## **SH 244:7**

If we were to derive all our conceptions of man from what is seen between the cradle and the grave, happiness

- 9 and goodness would have no abiding-place in man, and the worms would rob him of the flesh; but Paul writes: "The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath  
12 made me free from the law of sin and death."

## **SH 232:4–7**

The beliefs we commonly entertain about happiness and life

Denials of  
divine power

- 6 afford no scatheless and permanent evidence  
of either.

### **SH 246:1–3**

- 1 Man is not  
a pendulum, swinging between evil and good, joy and  
3 sorrow, sickness and health, life and death.

### **SH 60:29**

- Soul has infinite resources with which to bless mankind,  
30 and happiness would be more readily attained and would  
be more secure in our keeping, if sought in Soul. Higher  
enjoyments alone can satisfy the cravings of immortal  
1 man. We cannot circumscribe happiness within the  
limits of personal sense. The senses confer no real  
3 enjoyment.

### **SH 285:32–3**

- It is essential to understand, instead of believe, what  
1 relates most nearly to the happiness of being. To seek  
Truth through belief in a human doctrine is not to un-  
3 derstand the infinite.

### **SH 296:31–5**

- Mortal belief is a liar from the beginning, not deserving  
power. It says to mortals, “You are wretched!” and they  
1 think they are so; and nothing can change this state, until  
the belief changes. Mortal belief says, “You are happy!”  
3 and mortals are so; and no circumstance can  
alter the situation, until the belief on this sub-  
ject changes.

Belief an  
autocrat

### **SH 304:16–19**

Harmony is produced by its Principle, is controlled

by it and abides with it. Divine Principle is the Life  
18 of man. Man's happiness is not, therefore, at  
the disposal of physical sense.

Harmony  
natural

## SH 60:2

Science inevitably lifts one's being higher in the scale of  
3 harmony and happiness.

## SH 21:9

9 If the disciple is advancing spiritually, he is striv-  
ing to enter in. He constantly turns away from ma-  
terial sense, and looks towards the imperishable things  
12 of Spirit. If honest, he will be in earnest from the  
start, and gain a little each day in the right direction,  
till at last he finishes his course with joy.

## Hymn. 58:1

Father, we Thy loving children  
Lift our hearts in joy today,  
Knowing well that Thou wilt keep us  
Ever in Thy blessed way.  
Thou art Love and Thou art wisdom,  
Thou art Life and Thou art All;  
In Thy Spirit living, moving,  
We shall neither faint nor fall.

## Hymn. 517

Joyfully we're singing of our dear God's grace,  
Living every day within Love's warm embrace.  
Eagerly we long to witness everywhere;  
All throughout the world, God's saving love to share.

## REFRAIN

Singing of our dear God's grace,  
Living in Love's warm embrace,

Longing, now and everywhere,  
All God's saving love to share.

Who can separate us from the love of God?  
Truth is here to shield us with its staff and rod.  
What is there to harm us when this help is sure?  
We are more than conquerors; we rest secure.

REFRAIN

Everything that happens to us day by day,  
Christ will be the beacon that will light our way.  
Through distress and peril, God is faithful still,  
Why should we be fearful if we trust God's will?

REFRAIN

God remains our refuge in the trials we face,  
Shielding and sustaining us with loving grace.  
Working through the labors of our hearts and hands,  
Truth will lead us onward in triumphant bands!

REFRAIN

**Hymn. 603**

You know my words before they're said.  
You know my need and I am fed.  
You give me life. You know my ways,  
My strength, my path, for all my days.

If I should fly beyond the dawn,  
The darkness will not overcome.  
If I lie down in deepest night,  
Still You are there, my Lord, my light.

Our every thought, each word we say,

The whole of time, the present day,  
Are held within Your mighty hand,  
Too wonderful to comprehend!

O mend my heart and free my voice,  
From sin released, I will rejoice.  
O search me, Lord, my spirit cries,  
And let my song of praise arise!

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