

A GLORY FILLS THE MIDNIGHT SKY

A GLORY fills the midnight sky
and splendours blaze abroad,
a herald sent from God on high,
the angel of the Lord;
the shepherds tremble at his voice
and terror-struck are dumb,
but at his news let earth rejoice,
her promised King has come.

And in the East a shining star,
a portent to the wise,
will lead the Magi from afar
to where the Saviour lies;
for each has come a king to see
and each his treasure brings
to where, enthroned on Mary's knee,
they find the King of kings.

This homeless child to shepherds shown,
an infant king new-born,
has come to make a cross his throne,
his crown a crown of thorn;
the Son of God to save us all,
to bear our earthly pains,
this child within the cattle-stall
as King of glory reigns!

ALL THAT SHE COULD,
SHE DID FOR LOVE OF CHRIST

'She has done what she could'

Mark 14.3–9

ALL that she could, she did for love of Christ;
she gave the costliest of her treasured store.
To show her love, the best alone sufficed:
her best she gave, and none can offer more.

Down the long years she is remembered yet,
through this wide world, as in the realms above.
Where Christ is known, his friends cannot forget
her name was Mary, and her gift was love.

See, she anoints her Saviour's head and feet;
sweet, heavy scent of spices fills the room.
Soon he must make his sacrifice complete;
she has prepared his body for the tomb.

O risen Christ, from death and grave restored,
and by whose life your ransomed servants live,
grant that our love may be as freely poured
as hers who gave the best she had to give.

ALMIGHTY GOD, OUR PRAYER IS STILL

based on Matthew 6.9–15

ALMIGHTY GOD, our prayer is still,
as taught us by your Son,
your Name, your kingdom and your will
be honoured, sought and done.

As Christ of old the thousands fed,
help us the hungry feed:
give us this day our daily bread
to share with those in need.

May all our sins your pardon know,
the sins for which we grieve;
as we in turn forgiveness show
for wrongs that we receive.

Be near us in temptation's hour
when Satan prowls abroad:
from sin and every evil power
deliver us, good Lord.

Your power, your kingdom and your throne
for evermore remain!
All glory be to God alone
in his eternal reign!

BE WITH ME THROUGH THIS DAY

BE WITH ME through this day,
my friend and guide;
in all I do or say,
Lord, let me walk your way:
be ever at my side.

And when the road is long,
the climb is steep,
salvation be my song,
your Spirit make me strong
the faith of Christ to keep.

In shadow or in shine,
in cheer or gloom,
still may that word divine
affirm that you are mine,
mine, to the edge of doom.

Grant me, at last, to know
my days sufficed
to live and love and grow,
a pilgrim here below,
in company with Christ.