

Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,

urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive Your people's praise.

Lord, for our land in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for our world when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him:
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us -
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
past put behind us, for the future take us:
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)

Ye servants of the Lord,

each in his office wait,
observant of his heavenly word,
and watchful at his gate.

Let all your lamps be bright,
and trim the golden flame;
gird up your loins as in his sight,
for awful is his name.

The hymns are from Ancient & Modern: Hymns and Songs for Refreshing Worship

Watch! 'tis your Lord's command,
and while we speak, he's near;
mark the first signal of his hand,
and ready all appear.

O happy servant he
in such a posture found!
he shall his Lord with rapture see,
and be with honour crowned.

Christ shall the banquet spread
with his own royal hand,
and raise that faithful servant's head
amid the angelic band.

Philip Doddridge (1702-1751)

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art.
Be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
Both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;
be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord.
be thou my great Father, and I thy true son;
be thou in me dwelling and I with thee one.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight.
be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;
be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower.
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;
be thou mine inheritance, now and always.
be thou and thou only the first in my heart,
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant mee its joys after victory is won;
great Heart of my heart, whatever befall,
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

Translated by: May Byrne (1880-1931)

Versified by Eleanor Hull (1860-1935)

God beyond earth's finest treasures,

you alone shall have my praise;
I will love your cherished people,
I will serve you all my days;
be my ruler,
be my refuge,
God the guardian of my ways.

You have caused my life to prosper –
countless gifts your love has planned!
Day and night your wisdom prompts me,
show me all that you command;
God before me,
God beside me,
safe within your care I stand.

When my earthly days are over,
fresh delights remain in store:
vaster riches, fuller pleasure
than I ever knew before –
life unending,
joy unfading
in your presence evermore.

Martin Leckebusch (b.1962) based on Psalm 16