



A Hymn For Every Day

by Gaylene Haugen, Christian Growth, Central District

Bless the Lord, O my soul and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, ... Psalm 103:1-2

What do my mother, my daughter and I, all have in common with Queen Elizabeth II? The answer? As brides we all chose to walk down the aisle to the hymn, "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven" (793 LSB). Why, you may ask. I can't say why the other brides chose this hymn, but I know why I did.

The music, as composed by John Goss, is triumphant and the lyrics, as written by Henry F. Lyte, state: "Praise, my soul, the King of heaven, to His feet your tribute bring: Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, Evermore His praises sing: Alleluia, alleluia! Praise the everlasting King." These words and the music were the song of my heart that day.

When this hymn is used as a congregational hymn we sing of God being "Glorious in His faithfulness" (vs 2). These words become a personal prayer of praise and adoration to our God. "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits," rings out loud and clear through the lyrics in all four verses of this hymn.

When my mother was called home to glory in June 2023, our family came together around my sister's dining room table to plan her funeral service. While we were getting seated, my sister brought out the scrap of paper that had been found tucked into the telephone book



from our parents' home. In pencil, this scrap was entitled "Funeral Suggestions." Our mother had provided Scripture and hymn options from which to choose. The hope that is ours in Christ Jesus was the evident message my mother wanted people to hear. A few days later, with her granddaughters placing the pall over her casket and her grandsons as pallbearers, my mother came down the aisle one last time to the congregation singing "Praise, my soul, the King of heaven."

The final words of this hymn struck me in a new way that day. As Christians, we are baptized into the family of God, we are strengthened in this faith over our lifetime by hearing God's Word and receiving His sacraments. In death we are called home to everlasting life with our Saviour. As we sang the last words of this hymn that day, I realized, I wasn't just a mourning daughter, I was a member of a fellowship of believers, sharing the message of salvation: "Alleluia, alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace" (vs 4).

May we each hear the prayer of praise as we sing this hymn, knowing that the victory over sin, death and the devil has been won and eternal life is ours through God's grace. Amen



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