

# For The Beauty Of The Earth

## Our Hymn of Grateful Praise

*Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise*

This refrain anchors the song in the Thanksgiving season. After each verse reminds us of another instance of God's goodness, the refrain reminds us that grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. We are thankful *for* Him and we are thankful *to* Him.

Folliott Peirpoint's original refrain was more fitting for a communion service than a Thanksgiving service.

*Christ, our God, to Thee we raise,  
This our Sacrifice of praise.*

The Cambridge teacher and poet originally published the hymn in a collection of communion hymns. The "Sacrifice of praise" is a reference to Hebrews 13:15, "Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

## A Litany of Praise

Each verse in this hymn enumerates another aspect of God's grace. The first verse highlights His work as the creator and sustainer of all things. We only need to look to nature to see His love for us.

God is also the King of the Ages, the sovereign over every nation from past to present. He rules both the day and the

night and we can trust Him with every moment.

In the garden, God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him." He designed families so that we would not have to be alone. Christ also sets His chosen ones in His Church where they can find fellowship and a family of believers.

The Church itself is a reason to be thankful this season. I'm sure that there are many examples that come to mind of the faithful teaching and discipleship ministries of our local Church. The Church also provides opportunity for corporate worship and prayer and serves as a home base for all kinds of ministries in the community and around the world.

And for Christ, Himself, we are also thankful. It is through His sacrifice that we have forgiveness for our sins. We read in Galatians 4:4-5 that, "when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons." And the Angels that announced Christ's birth gave glory to God in the highest and proclaimed peace on Earth among men with whom He is pleased.

Psalm 92:1 says, "It is good to give thanks to the Lord and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High." Consider singing this song as a part of your Thanksgiving celebration this year.



† *For the beauty of the earth,  
For the glory of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth  
Over and around us lies;*

*Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For the wonder of each hour  
Of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale and tree and flower,  
Sun and moon and stars of light:*

*For the joy of human love,  
Brother, sister, parent, child;  
Friends on earth and friends above;  
For all gentle thoughts and mild:*

*For Thy Church that evermore  
Lifteth holy hands above,  
Offering up on every shore  
Her pure sacrifice of love:*

*For Thyself, best gift divine,  
To our race so freely given;  
For that great, great love of Thine,  
Peace on earth and joy in heaven:*