

We Give Thee But Thine Own William Walsham How (1823 – 1897)



While Bishop William Walsham How earned many affectionate nicknames throughout his long and distinguished career in the Church of England, this hymn recalls his appellation as the “children’s bishop.” How he was concerned about the education of the young and the welfare of poor children (and adults).

His incumbency in a small village near the Welsh border, Whittington, and his first episcopal appointment in a dreadfully poor part of East London, Bedford, gave him ample opportunity to demonstrate his compassion for the forgotten souls of England.

This hymn would have encouraged vocations, prayers, and funding both for foreign missions and for the maintenance of orphanages and hospitals near and dear to this bishop’s heart. Its language not only exhorted the faithful to render gifts of money as a tangible sacrifice for mission and mercy but also emphasized the stewardship of the greatest gift of all, the Gospel of righteousness and peace (Matthew 6:1-4).

In the first stanza, How echoes Psalm 50:10: “For every beast of the forest is Mine, the cattle on a thousand hills.” God accepts all offerings given in faith, but He does not truly need them because He already owns all things. Instead, as C. S. Lewis wrote in *Mere Christianity*, we are like the child who asks sixpence from his father to buy a birthday gift for him. The child buys the gift, the child is pleased to give it, the father is delighted to receive it, but in terms of raw monetary gain or loss, the father is “six-pence none the richer.” So it is with Christians: we give, not primarily for the need that exists, but because Christ’s love to us compels us to be faithful stewards of all that He has entrusted to our care.

The second stanza is a prayer for grace to give gladly and freely the “first fruits” offering as the Israelites were commanded to do. The next three stanzas treat with sadness our cold attitude toward those in need of food, the reason this work of caring for widows and orphans is our work as the people of Christ, and the truth that proclaiming the Gospel is our task in this like.

Lent – Week 5 Thursday, March 31, 2022 – 7:00pm **“God’s Care Comes First”**

Opening Hymn: LSB 781 (vs. 1-3) “We Give Thee But Thine Own

Pastor: The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.
People: Amen.

Pastor: It is good to give thanks to the Lord.
People: to sing praise to Your name, O Most High;

Pastor: to herald Your love in the morning,
People: Your truth at the close of the day.

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Pastor: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.
Amen

People: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen

People: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen

Call to Worship

Pastor: For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written:

People: “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.”

Pastor: Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for
People: “The righteous shall live by faith.”

Pastor: But the law is not of faith, rather
People: “The one who does them shall live by them.”

Pastor: Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a
curse for us – for it is written. .
People: Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree.”

Pastor: so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to
the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.”
(Galatians 3:10-14)

First Reading: Malachi 3:6-12

Prayer of the Day

Epistle Reading: II Corinthians 8:1-10

Gospel Reading: Matthew 6:19-21, 24-34

Hymn: LSB 789 "Praise and Thanksgiving"

SERMON - “God’s Care Comes First”

Prayers For the Body of Christ

Pastor: Hear my prayer, O Lord;
People: listen to my cry. *(Psalm 102:1)*

Pastor: Keep me as the apple of Your eye;
People: hide me in the shadow of Your wings. *(Psalm 17:8)*

Pastor: In righteousness I shall see You;
People: when I awake, Your presence will give me joy. *(Psalm 17:15)*

Pastor: O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the
shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is
hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then
Lord, in Your mercy grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest and
peace at the last; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
People: O Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Be our light in darkness, O Lord, and in Your great mercy
defend us from all perils and dangers; for the love of Your only
Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
People: O Lord, have mercy.

(A Moment of Silent Prayer)

Pastor: Abide with us, Lord, for it is toward evening, and the day is far
spent. Abide with us and with Your whole Church. Abide with
us at the end of the day, at the end of our life, at the end of the
world. Abide with us with Your grace and goodness, with Your
holy Word and Sacrament, with Your strength and blessing.
Abide with us when the night of affliction and temptation comes
upon us, the night of fear and despair, the night when death draws
near. Abide with us and with all the faithful, now and forever.
People: O Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Taught by our Lord and trusting His promise, we are bold to pray:

Lord’s Prayer

Pastor: Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping that awake we
may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.
**People: Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace; Your word has
been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which
You have prepared in the sight of ev’ry people: a light to
reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.**

Benediction

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord watch over you and
protect you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
People: Amen

Closing Hymn: LSB 781 (vs. 4-6) "We Give Thee But Thine Own"