

Seek Ye First

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia,

1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God  
 2 Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you;  
 3 You shall not live by bread a - lone,

al - le - lu - ia,

and its righ - teous - ness,  
 seek, and you shall find;  
 but by ev - ery word

The author and composer wrote the first stanza and folk-style tune after attending a Bible study on Matthew 6:33. The later stanzas, based respectively on Matthew 7:7 and Matthew 4:4, emerged anonymously. Such meditative singing of scripture is an important form of sung prayer.

TEXT: Stanza 1, Karen Lafferty, 1971, alt.; stanzas 2-3, anon.; Spanish trans. anon.; Liturgical Committee

LAFFERTY  
Irregular

al - le - lu - ia,

and all these things shall be add - ed un - to you.  
 knock, and the door shall be o - pened un - to you.  
 that pro - ceeds from the mouth of God.

al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

SPANISH

1 Busca primero el reino de Dios  
 y su perfecta justicia,  
 que lo demás lo añadirá el Señor.  
 Alelu, aleluya.

KOREAN

1 너희는 먼저- 주의 나라와  
 그의를 구하-면  
 이모든것 네게 더하시리라  
 알렐-루 알렐루야

# 41 O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!

1 O wor - ship the King, all glo - rious a - bove!  
 2 O tell of God's might; O sing of God's grace,  
 3 The earth with its store of won - ders un - told,  
 4 Your boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?  
 5 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,

O grate - ful - ly sing God's power and God's love:  
 whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space,  
 Al - might - y, your power has found - ed of old;  
 It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;  
 in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;

our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,  
 whose char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form;  
 es - tab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,  
 it streams from the hills; it de - scends to the plain,  
 your mer - cies, how ten - der, how firm to the end,

pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.  
 and bright is God's path on the wings of the storm.  
 and round it has cast, like a man - te, the sea.  
 and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.  
 our Mak - er, De - fend - er, Re - deem - er, and Friend.

Addressing the first two stanzas to the singers of the hymn and the last three to God, this free paraphrase of Psalm 104 recasts the psalmist's imagery with baroque verve. Though it was first published in England, the

# Your Faithfulness, O Lord, Is Sure 42

(Psalm 145)

1 Your faith - ful - ness, O Lord, is sure in  
 2 The eyes of all are fixed on you; by  
 3 Lord, you are just in all your ways, and  
 4 My mouth shall speak your praise, O Lord; my

all your words, your gra - cious deeds; you gen - tly lift all  
 you their wants are all sup - plied; your o - pen hand is  
 kind in ev - ery - thing you do; for - ev - er near you  
 soul shall bless your ho - ly name; let all things liv - ing

bur - dened souls and well pro - vide for all our needs.  
 boun - ti - ful and ev - ery soul is sat - is - fied.  
 stand to hear and help all those who call on you.  
 join the song of praise, from age to age the same.

This paraphrase of verses from the latter part of Psalm 145 celebrates God's providential care for all creation, especially for those in any need or trouble. This anonymous German tune was apparently introduced to English hymnody by John Wesley in a 1742 music collection.

# 327 From All That Dwell Below the Skies

(Psalm 117)

*Unison*

1 From all that dwell be-low the skies let the Cre - a - tor's praise a -  
 2 In ev - ery land be - gin the song; to ev - ery land the strains be -  
 3 E - ter - nal are thy mer - cies, Lord; e - ter - nal truth at - tends thy

*Harmony* *Unison*

rise: Let the Re - deem - er's  
 long: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! In cheer - ful sound all  
 word: Thy praise shall sound from

name be sung through ev - ery land, in ev - ery tongue.  
 voic - es raise and fill the world with joy - ful praise.  
 shore to shore, till suns shall rise and set no more.

*Harmony*

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Because Psalm 117 contains only two verses, Watts's paraphrase had only two stanzas. Most later hymnals have created or borrowed additional stanzas, like the one included here, to enlarge the hymn. Perhaps the best solution is found by adding Alleluias, as this tune invites.

*Unison*

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

# Praise God, All You Nations 328

*Da n'ase*  
 (Psalm 117)

Praise God, all you na - tions. Peo - ple of God, sing praise!  
 Da n'a - se! Da n'a - se! Da On - ya - me a - se!

Praise God, all you na - tions. Peo - ple of God, sing praise:  
 Da n'a - se! Da n'a - se! Da On - ya - me a - se!

God's love is great and en - dures for - ev - er.  
 Ef - ia - se o - ye n'a n'a - do - e do - e so.

Praise God, all you na - tions. Peo - ple of God, sing praise!  
 Da n'a - se! Da n'a - se! Da On - ya - me a - se!

This paraphrase of Psalm 117 comes from Ghana and was originally created in the Twi language. Paradoxically, this shortest of all psalms is universal in scope, which makes it especially appropriate to sing in the words and music of people from another part of the world.