

Singing Our Faith
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – November 19, 2017

Scroll down to read the reflection on this hymn.

For the Healing of the Nations



1. For the heal - ing of the na - tions, Lord, we pray with
2. Lead your peo - ple in - to free - dom, From de - spair your
3. All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, Let it from the
4. You, cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten Your great name on



one ac - cord; For a just and e - qual shar - ing
world re - lease That, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,
earth be banned: Pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,
hu - man - kind; For our grow - ing in your like - ness



Of the things that earth af - fords. To a life of
All may come and go in peace. Show us how, through
Dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon
Bring the life of Christ to mind, That by our re -



love in ac - tion Help us rise and pledge our word.
care and good - ness, Fear will die and hope in - crease.
quest for jus - tice May we hal - low life's brief span.
sponse and serv - ice Earth its des - ti - ny may find.

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I chose the opening hymn above for reasons pertaining to our world and to the scriptures. In stanza two, I think of the people in the middle east who, in addition to being burdened by conflict and fear, are suffering from the effects of an earthquake this week. Stanza three speaks strongly against those committing the senseless violence that continues to plague our own country. The hymn title's message of healing speaks volumes to our world at this very moment.

In this final Sunday of Ordinary Time, the readings keep pointing to Christ's second coming and our final judgement. The popular reading from Proverbs puts works of discipleship and fear of the Lord ahead of worldly vices – *“Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; the woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.”* Together, scripture passages are summed up in the refrain *“Blessed are those who fear the Lord.”*

Fast-forward now to the gospel parable of the talents. It teaches a valuable stewardship lesson that, no matter if our gifts are great or simple, many or few, God wants us to reap goodness from the blessings he has given us. The fourth stanza of “For the Healing of the Nations” reminds us that God's name is written on our hearts, that we were created for goodness. The final words *“That by our response and service earth its destiny may find,”* are calling us to put our talents to good use, just as Jesus told us in the parable.

We must remember that no gift is too small to bring good to the world. As the master in the parable said, *“Since you were faithful in*

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small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.” Each talent we have gives us a new set of responsibilities in God’s kingdom on earth. The flip side of that is the joy that comes from giving back and helping others. Notice the prayer at the top of this week’s email. The verse above from the gospel is echoed in this prayer – “for it is full and lasting happiness to serve with constancy the author of all that is good.” Amen! Imagine if everyone set pretense aside and used all their talents for the good of others. I think we would then truly experience “healing of the nations.”

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