



1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heav'n to earth come down,
fix in us Thy humble dwelling;
all Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion;
pure, unbounded love Thou art;
visit us with Thy salvation;
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all Thy life receive;
suddenly return and never,
nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
pray and praise Thee without ceasing,
glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish then Thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see Thy great salvation
perfectly restored in Thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before Thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.



Almighty God, Creator and Everlasting Who has started physical life
we give thanks that we are not just pieces of existence but people valuable to You
that You want to fill us with spiritual life
living in our lives by Your Holy Spirit
changing us into the likeness of Jesus

Grant us a deep awareness of the privilege of a restored relationship with You
a thrill of being in the picture of Your purpose made known in Jesus Christ
and a willingness be available to serve You individually
and in fellowship with fellow Christians local and global

Open our eyes that we may behold wonderful things out of Your word
through Jesus Christ our Risen lord and Saviour to Whom with You and the Holy Spirit be all praise and
glory AMEN

Reading 1 Peter 4.7-14

7 The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray.

8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. **9** Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. **10** Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

11 If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen



Our God is a great big God,
Our God is a great big God,
Our God is a great big God
And He holds us in His hands.

He's higher than a skyscraper
And deeper than a submarine.
He's wider than the universe
And beyond my wildest dreams.
He's known me and He's loved me
Before the world began.
How wonderful to be a part
Of God's amazing plan.

God's amazing plan

Peter's letter started with the thrill of a living hope.

and the central purpose of the Church bringing people to God as we see in the previous chapter
Sense of movement runs through the letter end of things near ...

In the Old Testament they looked forward to the day of the Lord

That was the key point in history - therefore as we speak of two eras BC and AD
they spoke of as the former days BC and the last days AD

how does that work out in practice in the here and now?

Peter touches on several features of a congregation embodying God's plan :

Prayer : alert because we are in a spiritual battle
sober mind - think clearly

Love : probably the word which has the most varied meanings .
deeply/ fervently describes a horse at full gallop. root idea is stretching.



No grumbling : hospitality..

grace in administration : faithful stewards ... how is our stewardship going ?
we are used to auditing accounts for our stewardship of money
do we consider our stewardship of the good news for the next generation ?



serving - God gives strength

"attempt great things for God - expect great things from God"

William Carey ... started as a shoemaker, became a missionary,
having learned 5 more languages and is considered father of modern missionaries

God's name be praised .. is it ? omg muslim have high regard for name of Allah - BBC would not dare

1 Oh, for a closer walk with God,
a calm and heavenly frame,
a light to shine upon the road
that leads me to the Lamb!

What peaceful hours I once enjoyed!
How sweet their memory still!
But they have left an aching void
the world can never fill.

Where is the blessedness I knew
when first I saw the Lord?
Where is the soul-refreshing view
of Jesus and his word?

The dearest idol I have known,
whate'er that idol be,
help me to tear it from thy throne,
and worship only thee.

So shall my walk be close with God,
calm and serene my frame;
so purer light shall mark the road
that leads me to the Lamb.



How much it means to know You with us in our daily walk
giving us Your peace of heart and Your light for daily living
We pray for those who live in dark places -

- where hunger and disease are chronic and for organisations like Christian Aid and Tear Fund work
- where there is persecution of those who love Jesus as Lord
- where families are dysfunctional through gambling through abuse of alcohol or drugs
- where people are in dark places of the soul
 - through emptiness, through sin, through turning back on You
 - and for some aspect of trouble in the news

Hear us as we pray ...

...for the witness of Your people in obeying the biblical priority of bringing people to God

...for some particular person who is struggling with physical, mental or spiritual problems.

... and for wisdom that we may know how best to share your message with a growing generation

... and for the leaders and membership of this congregation through Jesus Christ our Lord Who taught us when we pray to say

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword:
His truth is marching on.
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
His truth is marching on.

He has sounded forth the trumpet
that shall never call retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of all before his judgment seat;
O be swift, my soul, to answer him;
be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on.

He is coming like the glory
Of the morning on the wave;
He is wisdom to the mighty;
He is succour to the brave;
So the world shall be his footstool,
And the soul of time his slave:
Our God is marching on.
 Glory glory, Alleluia! x3
 Our God is marching on!