

Wed 9/18/24 - Seeking and finding

September 18 2024



Hymn. 539:0–5

“Mother’s Evening Prayer”

O gentle presence, peace and joy and power;
O Life divine, that owns each waiting hour,
Thou Love that guards the nestling’s faltering flight!
Keep Thou my child on upward wing tonight.

Love is our refuge; only with mine eye
Can I behold the snare, the pit, the fall:
His habitation high is here, and nigh,
His arm encircles me, and mine, and all.

O make me glad for every scalding tear,
For hope deferred, ingratitude, disdain!
Wait, and love more for every hate, and fear
No ill,—since God is good, and loss is gain.

Beneath the shadow of His mighty wing;
In that sweet secret of the narrow way,
Seeking and finding, with the angels sing:
“Lo, I am with you always,”—watch and pray.

No snare, no fowler, pestilence or pain;
No night drops down upon the troubled breast,
When heaven’s aftersmile earth’s tear-drops gain,
And mother finds her home and heav’nly rest.

Words: MARY BAKER EDDY

Music: Lisa Redfern; arr. CSPA

Hymn. 330:1–4

The King of Love my Shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack, for I am His
And He is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow
My ransomed soul He leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures grow,
With food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
But yet in love He sought me,
And on His shoulder gently laid,
And home, rejoicing, brought me.

And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise
Within Thy house forever.

Words: HENRY W. BAKER*

Music: John B. Dykes

Hymn. 572:1–4

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!

Ask and it shall be given unto you.
Seek and ye shall find,
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you.

Allelu, alleluia!

We do not live by bread alone,
But by every word
That proceeds from the mouth of God.
Allelu, alleluia!

DESCANT

Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Words: VERSE 1 PARA. MATTHEW 6:33 KAREN LAFFERTY; VERSES 2, 3 PARA. MATTHEW 7:7, 4:4 ANON.

Music: Karen Lafferty

Jer. 29:11–13 I

- 11 ... I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.
- 12 Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.
- 13 And ye shall seek me, and find *me*, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

I Chron. 22:19 (to ;)

- 19 Now set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD your God; ...

Ps. 63:1

- 1 O God, thou *art* my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;

Ps. 27:7, 8, 13, 14

- 7 Hear, O LORD, *when* I cry with my voice: have mercy also upon me, and answer me.
- 8 *When thou saidst*, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek.
- 13 *I had fainted*, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land

of the living.

- 14 Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart:
wait, I say, on the LORD.

II Sam. 22:5–7

- 5 When the waves of death compassed me, the floods of ungodly men made me
afraid;
6 The sorrows of hell compassed me about; the snares of death prevented me;
7 In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried to my God: and he did hear
my voice out of his temple, and my cry *did enter* into his ears.

Ps. 86:11 (to :), 12, 13

- 11 Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: ...
12 I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy
name for evermore.
13 For great *is* thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the
lowest hell.

Ps. 16:8–11

- 8 I have set the LORD always before me: because *he is* at my right hand, I shall
not be moved.
9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in
hope.
10 For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One
to see corruption.
11 Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence *is* fulness of joy; at thy
right hand *there are* pleasures for evermore.

Matt. 7:7, 8, 9–11 what

- 7 ¶ Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be
opened unto you:
8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him
that knocketh it shall be opened.
9 ... what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a
stone?

- 10 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?
- 11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

John 5:1–9 Jesus (to :)

- 1 ... Jesus went up to Jerusalem.
- 2 Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep *market* a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches.
- 3 In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water.
- 4 For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had.
- 5 And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years.
- 6 When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time *in that case*, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?
- 7 The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me.
- 8 Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.
- 9 And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked:
...

Ezek. 34:11 thus, 12, 15, 16 (to :)

- 11 ... thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, *even* I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out.
- 12 As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep *that are* scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day.
- 15 I will feed my flock, and I will cause them to lie down, saith the Lord GOD.
- 16 I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up *that which* was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick: ...

Luke 15:4–6

- 4 What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?
- 5 And when he hath found *it*, he layeth *it* on his shoulders, rejoicing.
- 6 And when he cometh home, he calleth together *his* friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.

Matt. 9:10–13 it

- 10 ... it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples.
- 11 And when the Pharisees saw *it*, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners?
- 12 But when Jesus heard *that*, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.
- 13 But go ye and learn what *that* meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Isa. 35:4–6, 10

- 4 Say to them *that are* of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come *with* vengeance, *even* God *with* a recompence; he will come and save you.
- 5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.
- 6 Then shall the lame *man* leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.
- 10 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

I Chron. 16:10 let

- 10 ... let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD.

SH 107:1–3

1 I N the year 1866, I discovered the Christ Science or
divine laws of Life, Truth, and Love, and
3 named my discovery Christian Science.

Christian
Science
discovered

SH 109:11–22

For three years after my discovery, I sought the solu-
12 tion of this problem of Mind-healing, searched the Scrip-
tures and read little else, kept aloof from so-
ciety, and devoted time and energies to dis-
15 covering a positive rule. The search was sweet, calm, and
buoyant with hope, not selfish nor depressing. I knew
the Principle of all harmonious Mind-action to be God,
18 and that cures were produced in primitive Christian
healing by holy, uplifting faith; but I must know the
Science of this healing, and I won my way to absolute
21 conclusions through divine revelation, reason, and dem-
onstration.

Solitary
research

SH xii:23

In the spirit of Christ’s charity, — as one who “hopeth
24 all things, endureth all things,” and is joyful to bear
consolation to the sorrowing and healing to the sick, —
she commits these pages to honest seekers for Truth.

SH 570:14–18

Millions of unprejudiced minds — simple seekers for
15 Truth, weary wanderers, athirst in the desert — are wait-
ing and watching for rest and drink. Give
them a cup of cold water in Christ’s name,
18 and never fear the consequences.

Receptive
hearts

SH x:22–23

The divine Principle of healing is proved in the
personal experience of any sincere seeker of Truth.

SH 254:10–12

When we wait
patiently on God and seek Truth righteously, He directs
12 our path.

SH 596:20–27

VALLEY. Depression; meekness; darkness.
21 “Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of
death, I will fear no evil.” (Psalm xxiii. 4.)
Though the way is dark in mortal sense, divine Life
24 and Love illumine it, destroy the unrest of mortal thought,
the fear of death, and the supposed reality of error. Chris-
tian Science, contradicting sense, maketh the valley to bud
27 and blossom as the rose.

SH 21:9

9 If the disciple is advancing spiritually, he is striv-
ing to enter in. He constantly turns away from ma-
terial sense, and looks towards the imperishable things
12 of Spirit. If honest, he will be in earnest from the
start, and gain a little each day in the right direction,
till at last he finishes his course with joy.

SH 1:10

Thoughts unspoken are not unknown to the divine
Mind. Desire is prayer; and no loss can occur from
12 trusting God with our desires, that they may be
moulded and exalted before they take form in words
and in deeds.

SH 2:4

Are we benefited by praying? Yes,
the desire which goes forth hungering after righteous-
6 ness is blessed of our Father, and it does not return
unto us void.

Right
motives

SH 13:14

Even if prayer is

15 sincere, God knows our need before we tell Him or our
fellow-beings about it. If we cherish the desire hon-
estly and silently and humbly, God will bless it, and
18 we shall incur less risk of overwhelming our real
wishes with a torrent of words.

SH 12:27–29, 31

27 Does Deity interpose in behalf of one worshipper,
and not help another who offers the same measure of
prayer?

In divine

Science, where prayers are mental, *all* may avail them-
1 selves of God as “a very present help in trouble.”
Love is impartial and universal in its adaptation and
3 bestowals. It is the open fount which cries, “Ho,
every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters.”

SH 454:18–19

18 Love inspires,
illuminates, designates, and leads the way.

SH 382:24

24 One whom I rescued from seeming spiritual oblivion,
in which the senses had engulfed him, wrote to me: “I
should have died, but for the glorious Principle you teach,
27 — supporting the power of Mind over the body and show-
ing me the nothingness of the so-called pleasures and pains
of sense. The treatises I had read and the medicines I
30 had taken only abandoned me to more hopeless suffering
and despair. Adherence to hygiene was useless. Mortal
mind needed to be set right. The ailment was not bodily,

1 but mental, and I was cured when I learned my way in Christian Science.”

SH 621:9–17, 20–23, 26–19

For fifteen years I was a great sufferer physically and mentally. Eminent physicians treated me for hereditary consumption, torpid liver, and many other diseases. I sought relief at famous springs, the ozone of Florida, and the pure air of Colorado, but in vain. My life was one ceaseless torture.

During all this time, however, I was an earnest seeker after Truth. I examined every religious teaching with a calm and unprejudiced attention.

Sick,

weary, doubting, and despairing, I accidentally went into a Christian Science church in New York City, on a Wednesday evening, not knowing what kind of a place it was.

Being informed it was their regular Wednesday evening service, I inquired as to the denomination. I concluded that it was another new fad, but after investigation I procured a copy of Science and Health, promising I would read it carefully. I began
1 reading the book on Tuesday and finished on Friday of the same week. I was still in the dark. I laid the book down, involuntarily closed my eyes, and silently prayed to God.

I remained in that attitude a few moments, when I felt like the mariner who had been tossed for days upon a boisterous sea, the clouds bending low, the billows rolling high, all nature wrapped in darkness; in his despair he kneels and commits his soul to God, when he suddenly beholds the North Star breaking through the

clouds, enabling him to guide his ship to the shores of safety. Many things were made plain to me. I saw that there is one Fatherhood of God and one brotherhood of man; that though “once I was blind, now I see;” that there was no more pain, nor aches, no fear, nor indigestion. I slept that night like a babe and awoke next morning refreshed. There are now no traces whatever of my former complaint and I feel like a new being. — L. P., New York, N. Y.

SH 670:5

Like many others I had been seemingly lost in the sea of error, without a compass, yet earnestly and honestly seeking a haven. I had investigated all kinds of religions and philosophies that came under my notice, with the exception of Christian Science, which was not then deemed worthy of inquiry, and yet it held the very truth I was searching for — the light which “shineth in the darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.” Three years of stubborn resistance to Truth, with increasing suffering, followed — then the light came, and with it a new experience. Now, after nine years of Christian Science experience, under severe tests, it can be truthfully said that it has not failed me in any hour of need. — J. F. J., Cincinnati, Ohio.