

A Voice Cries Out

Michael Joncas

1. Console my people, the ones dear to me;
speak to the heart of Jerusalem:
the time of your mourning is ended now,
the Lord of life will come.

Refrain

A voice cries out in the wilderness:
"Prepare a way for the Lord!"

A voice cries out in the wilderness:
"Make straight a highway for God!"

2. Ev'ry valley is made a plain,
ev'ry mountain is leveled;
the glory of God shall then be revealed,
and the nations will sing in praise.

3. A voice shouts: "Cry!" O what shall I cry?
All flesh is like grass and its flowers:
the grass may wither, the flowers may fade,
but the Word of the Lord is forever.

4. Zion, shout from the mountain top,
lift up your voice, O Jerusalem,
and say to the people of God's own land,
"Behold, behold your God!"

5. The Lord will appear as a shepherd,
holding his lambs in his arms,
keeping his flock so close to his heart,
leading them all, old and young.

Text: Based on Isaiah 40:1–11. Text and music © 1981, 1982, The Jan Michael Joncas Trust. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

Behold the Lamb

Martin Willett

1. Those who were in the dark
are thankful for the sunlight;
we who live, we who die
are grateful for his gift, thankful for his love.

Refrain

Behold, behold the Lamb of God.

All who eat, all who drink shall live;
and all, all who dwell in God
shall come to know his glory.

2. Peaceful now, those whose hearts
are blessed with understanding
of the wheat, of the wine
united with his word and the love we share.

3. Gentle one, Child of God,
join with us at this table.
Bless our lives; nourish all
who hunger for this feast; shelter them with peace.

4. Lord of all, give us light.
Deliver us from evil.
Make us one; be our shield.
Make still the winds that blow; cradle us with love.

Refrain text: Based on John 1:29. Text and music © 1984, OCP. All rights reserved.

Comfort, Comfort, O My People

GENEVA 42/Claude Goudimel/Johann Olearius

1. Comfort, comfort, O my people,
Speak of peace, now says our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness,
Mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak unto Jerusalem
Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell of all the sins I cover,
And that warfare now is over.

2. Hark, the voice of one who's crying
In the desert far and near,
Bidding all to full repentance
Since the kingdom is now here.
O that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet him
And the hills bow down to greet him.

3. O make straight what long was crooked,
Make the rougher places plain;
Let your hearts be true and humble,
As befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord

Now o'er earth is shed abroad;
And all flesh shall see the token
That his word is never broken.

Text: 87 87 77 88; based on Isaiah 40:1–8; Johann G. Olearius, 1611–1684; tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Music: Claude Goudimel, ca. 1514–1572; Genevan Psalter, 1551.

There Is One Lord

Owen Alstott

Refrain

There is one Lord.
There is one faith.
There is one fountain flowing
with the waters of rebirth.

1. As the dew from heaven
falls upon the earth,
so the love of God
descends upon us.

2. See the water flowing
from the temple wall,
from the side of Christ,
renewing all the earth.

3. Like a thirsty deer that
longs for running streams,
so my spirit longs
for God, the living God.

4. In the roar of waters
deep calls out to deep.
In the surging waves
the voice of God is heard.

5. Blest beyond all measure
by the love of God,
all creation sings
the glory of his name.

Text: cf. Ephesians 4:5. Text and music © 1984, OCP. All rights reserved.

Wade in the Water

Spiritual/M.D. Ridge

Refrain

Wade in the water,
wade in the water, children now.
Wade in the water,
God's gonna trouble the water.

1. John was a-preachin'
by the shores of Jordan stream:
"Repent of your sins and let
the water wash you clean."

2. Jesus came to be baptized by John;
and when it was done
a voice from the heavens said:
"This is my beloved Son."

3. "My favor rests upon him,"
said a voice from above.
The crowd saw the Spirit
in the form of a snow white dove.

4. Come to the river where
the living waters rise:
if you want to follow Jesus,
you must come and be baptized.

Refrain text: Spiritual. Verses text and music adapt. © 1993, M.D. Ridge. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

Shall We Gather at the River

HANSON PLACE

1. Shall we gather at the river,
Where bright angel feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever,
Flowing by the throne of God?

Refrain

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river,
Gather with the saints at the river
That flows by the throne of God.

2. On the margin of the river,
Washing up its silver spray,
We will walk and worship ever,
All the happy golden day.

3. Ere we reach the shining river,
Lay we ev'ry burden down;
Grace our spirits will deliver,
And provide a robe and crown.

4. Soon we'll reach the shining river,
Soon our pilgrimage will cease;
Soon our happy hearts will quiver
With the melody of peace.

Text: 87 87 with refrain; Revelation 22:1–5. Music: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899.