

**EPWORTH SONGS: FOR USE IN
THE EPWORTH LEAGUE, THE
JUNIOR LEAGUE, THE
SUNDAY-SCHOOL AND IN
SOCIAL SERVICES**

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Epworth Songs: For Use in the Epworth League, the Junior League, the Sunday-School and in Social Services by Joseph F. Berry & Chas. H. Gabriel

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PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD OF CONTROL.

EDITED BY

JOSEPH F. BERRY AND CHAS. H. GABRIEL.



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RESPONSIVE READINGS.

FOR THE DEVOTIONAL MEETING.

I. PRAISE AND PRAYER.

Leader. I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.

Response. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise.

L. They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles;

R. They shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint.

L. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

R. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

L. If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

R. Wherefore he is able to save them to the uttermost, that come unto God by him.

L. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.

R. Ask, and ye shall receive; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

L. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

R. O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.

2. PRAISING GOD.

Leader. O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Response. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.

L. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

R. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

L. Who forgiveth all thine iniquities, who healeth all thy diseases.

R. Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercies.

L. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and plenteous in mercy.

R. He hath not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

L. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

R. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him.

L. O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall show forth thy praise.

R. O give thanks unto the Lord, for his mercy endureth forever.

3. WINNING SOULS.

Leader. For we are laborers together with God.

Response. The field is the world.

L. Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes and look on the fields, for they are white already to harvest.

R. He first findeth his own brother, Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias. . . . And he brought him to Jesus.

L. Let him know that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way, shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

R. And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness, as the stars, for ever and ever.

L. They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.

R. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

L. His Lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.

R. And let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not.

4. ALL FOR JESUS.

Leader. Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing.

Response. For this is the will of God, even your sanctification.

L. Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Christ.

R. Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

L. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

R. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

L. For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one; for which cause He is not ashamed to call them brethren.

R. Love not the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

L. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

R. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof; but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.

5. TRIUMPHS OF THE GOSPEL.

Leader. The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them;

Response. And the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.

L. It shall blossom abundantly,

R. And rejoice even with joy and singing.

L. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

R. And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

L. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart.

R. And the tongue of the dumb sing.

L. For in the wilderness shall waters break out,

R. And streams in the desert.

L. He shall come down like rain upon the mown grass, as showers that water the earth.

R. For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace.

L. The mountains and the hills shall break before you into singing, and all the trees of the fields shall clap their hands.

R. Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir-tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle-tree.

All. And it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

6. OUR SYMPATHIZING FRIEND.

Leader. The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.

Response. Like a shepherd he shall gather the lambs with his arms, and carry them in his bosom.

L. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him.

R. Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.

L. Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.

R. Fear ye not, therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.

L. A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench.

R. Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

L. For we have not an high priest which can not be touched with the feeling of our infirmities: but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

R. As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the Lord is round about his people from henceforth even forever.

L. In his love and his pity he redeemed them.

R. God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

7. PENTECOSTAL MEETING.

Leader. And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh.

Response. And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

L. And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

R. But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

L. And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

R. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

L. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

R. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

L. Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?

R. Hereby know that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

8. BLESSED PEOPLE.

Leader. Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Response. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

L. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

R. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

L. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

R. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

L. Blessed are the peace-makers: for they shall be called the children of God.

R. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

L. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

R. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

A FRATERNAL SERVICE.

[*May be read responsively at Conventions or when one Chapter visits another. It may also be used when a Chapter visits a society of another denomination.*]

1st Section. Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it; and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name.

2d Section. And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels: and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

1st Sec. The inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, Let us go speedily to pray before the Lord, and to seek the Lord of hosts. I will go also.

2d Sec. I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.

1st Sec. While they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.

2d Sec. Did not our heart burn within us while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the Scriptures?

1st Sec. For I long to see you.

2d Sec. That I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

1st Sec. So we being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

2d Sec. And there shall be one flock and one Shepherd.

CONSECRATION SERVICE.

SING No. 42.

Leader. Covet earnestly the best gifts.

Response. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

L. Having, therefore, these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

R. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

L. I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.

R. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

L. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

R. The sacrifices of God are a broken heart; a broken and a contrite heart thou wilt not despise.

All. Blessed be the Lord, because he hath heard the voice of my supplications. The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.

SING—OUR CONSECRATION HYMN,
No. 22.

CONSECRATION PRAYER.

RECEPTION OF MEMBERS.

[*With the Cabinet and Candidates in proper position, the President shall say:*]

Dear Friends.—You are about to become members of a vast army of young people, known as the Epworth League, with Chapters in every part of the world.

This organization is designed for the religious, intellectual, and social upbuilding of our young people. Wherever you may go, you will be very apt to find Epworthians, and this will secure for you the companionship of young Christians

who will at once become interested in your social and religious welfare. The First Vice-President will give you our motto, and Scripture references illustrating its meaning.

First Vice-President. The motto of the Epworth League is, "LOOK UP; LIFT UP." You will find it on our badge, which I now present you.

"My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.

"Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow."

President. Our Second Vice-President will now instruct you with reference to the League idea.

Second Vice-President. The League idea is based upon the law of Christian fellowship, which is a most potent factor in helping us to become what God designed us to be. Spiritually, intellectually, and socially, the associations of the Epworth League are delightful and helpful. The young people of our Church are brought into closer relations with each other, and in their zeal to look up and lift up, social distinctions are forgotten, selfish ambitions are lost, heart beats with heart, pulse throbs with pulse, and all because our faith, aims, and service are one.

Third Vice-President. The colors of the Epworth League consist of a narrow white ribbon, through the center of which, from end to end, runs a red silken thread. The signification is beautiful. The white ribbon symbolizes the desire of every Epworthian to become pure in heart, in thought, in life, earnestly striving for

"A heart in every thought renewed,
And full of love divine;
Perfect and right and pure and good—
A copy, Lord, of thine."

The red silken thread is emblematical of the "blood of Jesus Christ, his Son," which "cleanseth from all sin."

Fourth Vice-President. I place in your hands our Constitution. In it you will find the Epworth wheel—a diagram

representing the workings of the League. At the center of the organization stand the President, pastor, and Junior League Superintendent. Surrounding them are four Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. These constitute the Cabinet. There are six departments of work, namely, those of Spiritual Work, Mercy and Help, Literary Work, Social Life, Correspondence, and Finance. Through the work planned in these various departments we seek the symmetrical development of Christian character. With their practical workings you will become more familiar as you give them your personal attention, which we trust you will do.

[In case the Chapter has adopted the pledge, the President shall address the candidates for admission, and say:]

We understand that you desire to become active members of our Chapter?

Answer. I do.

President. That we may mutually understand and help each other, will you answer "I will" to each of the following questions:

Will you earnestly seek for yourself, and do what you can to help others attain, the highest New Testament standard of experience and life?

Will you abstain from all those forms of worldly amusement forbidden by the Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church?

Will you attend, as far as possible, the religious meetings of the Chapter and Church, and take some part in the same?

[Whether the Chapter has adopted the pledge or not, the President shall close the service as follows:]

President. In the name of our Chapter and of all true Epworthians, I extend to you the right hand of fellowship, and welcome you to membership in this great army of young soldiers. I take pleasure in assigning you to the Department of _____ and I trust our fellowship will be mutually profitable and a blessing to God's Church.

[Following this service a ten-minute reception may be held.]

RECOGNITION OF OFFICERS.

If convenient, the Recognition Service should be held on Sunday evening, and the whole congregation invited to be present and participate.

The Secretary may read the names of the newly-elected officers, and they will respond by coming forward to the altar.

The Secretary should then read the action of the Quarterly Conference approving the President elect.

RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE READING.

Leader. Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill?

Congregation (standing). He that walketh uprightly, and worketh right-

eousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.

Officers elect (standing). And who is sufficient for these things?

Leader. Ye shall receive power after

that the Holy Ghost hath come upon you.

Officers elect. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Leader. Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things.

Congregation. And blessed be his glorious name forever, and let the whole earth be filled with his glory.

Leader. Brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Congregation. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Officers elect. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with thy free spirit; then will I teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

Leader. Delight thyself also in the Lord, and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

Congregation. Commit thy way unto the Lord. Trust also in him, and he shall bring it to pass.

Officers elect. Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?

Leader. whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom in the grave, whither thou goest.

Congregation. Also, I heard the voice of the Lord saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?

Officers elect. Then said I, Here am I, send me.

Leader. Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor and the maimed and the blind and the blind, that my house may be filled.

Officers elect. I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is called day. The night cometh when no man can work.

Leader. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

Congregation. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal, that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.

Leader. Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning, and ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their Lord.

Officers elect. Neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

Congregation. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

(After an appropriate song, the pastor, or some one whom he may designate, shall address the newly elected officers as follows:)

To the President: You have been chosen to the chief office of our Chapter. This is indeed a high honor. The position is also one of grave responsibility. You are to be a pattern to the young people of our Church. To you we shall look for counsel, inspiration, and leadership. See to it that you conduct the affairs of the League in such a modest, fraternal, and unselfish spirit, that harmony may prevail, and all departments of our work be advanced. Be assured of our confidence, sympathy, and willing co-operation. We will earnestly pray that wisdom and grace may be given you by our Lord, and that your suggestions and plans may be blessed to our personal good and the honor of the Master whom we serve. I place in your hand the gavel, an emblem of authority and good order. May you govern with uniform promptness, courtesy, and love!

To the First Vice-President: To you we have committed the superintendence of the spiritual work of our Chapter. As you well know, the primary design of the Epworth League is to secure the conversion of young people, and to aid in their religious culture. The devotional meeting is the very core of our organization. It should always be an attractive service. From beginning to close the exercises should be characterized by promptness, earnestness, and Christian joy. I charge you, allow no inattention or lack of zeal upon your part to cripple, in any measure, the spiritual activities of our Chapter. The greatest work in which any human being can engage is that of leading souls to the Savior. Time is short. Opportunities are passing by. Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, therefore, do it with thy might. I hand you a copy of the Holy Scriptures, a fitting emblem of your office. Study the Word, assimilate its truths, walk in its light, follow its sublime teachings, and you will indeed become a workman that needeth not to be ashamed.

To the Second Vice-President: I present to you this miniature cross. It suggests the idea of self-sacrifice. Like your Master, you will be expected to go about doing good, ministering to those who are in poverty, sickness, and distress. There are many homes where the shadows lengthen. There are many hearts lonely, discouraged, and sad. In darkened chamber and hospital ward there are hundreds who suffer, and they are hungry for a word of sympathy and good cheer. These homes you may brighten; these hearts you may comfort; the languid eyes of the sufferer may be caused to sparkle with new luster. The curse of intemperance

RESPONSIVE READINGS.

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and of social impurity still menaces the land, blighting character, robbing manhood of its strength and womanhood of its domestic joys, and entailing an unending stream of misery which can not be told in words. These monstrous iniquities you may help to put down. The Mercy and Help workers of our League have a Christly mission to perform, and, as their recognized leader, we pray that you may possess broad sympathies, unflagging zeal, and undaunted faith in God.

To the Third Vice-President: Next to the society in which we mingle, the books and periodicals which we read mold our opinions, fix our principles, and make us what we are. The land is full of evil literature. Some of it is morally contaminating. Some of it is frivolous, and furnishes no proper food for the mind. The Epworth League seeks to create a taste for that which is pure and uplifting in literature by supplying the young people with books and papers of the highest grade. A systematic course of Bible study has been provided, upon which you will do well to place emphasis. An effort is being made to give to young persons who have not enjoyed the benefits of a liberal education, a glimpse at the field of general literature, and to inspire all to inform themselves concerning the history, doctrines, polity, and present activities of our own Church. I place in your hand, as an emblem of your office, a copy of our official paper, *The Epworth Herald*, and a volume from the reading course of the current year. May the intellectual life of our young people be greatly stimulated during your term of service!

To the Fourth Vice-President: You are to be intrusted with duties which are at once most delicate and responsible. Young people demand companionship and a measure of recreation. It is well for us to recognize this fact, and see to it that it does not become necessary for them to go to the world to have this demand supplied. The rules of our Church (and the pledge of our League) properly forbid our participation in dancing, card-playing, theater-going, and other injurious amusements. And because of these prohibitions we are under special obligations to create a delightful social atmosphere within the Church, so that our young people may enjoy social life under Christian auspices. To your department has been intrusted

the duty of seeking new members, and of extending a cordial welcome to all who attend the meetings of the League, Sunday-school, and Church. I extend to you my hand of fellowship, an act which most fittingly symbolizes the work of your office. May you receive the hearty co-operation of your colleagues in this department, and of the Chapter generally, as you strive to lift the social life of the Church and community to a higher plane!

To the Secretary: Upon the correctness, courtesy, and faithfulness of a Secretary much of the success of a Chapter depends. Your election (or re-election) is evidence that in the judgment of your fellow-leaguers you possess these admirable qualities. The keeping of neat and accurate records is of no trifling importance. But this will be only a small part of your work. You will be expected to aid the President and department leaders, prepare notices for the pulpit and the press, issue certificates of removal, and correspond with absent members. I transfer to you the records of our Chapter. Let us hope that they may ever contain the history of zealous and faithful Epworth service.

To the Treasurer: Every well-organized society has a treasury, and a responsible guardian of its funds. While the League was not organized to collect and disburse money, it nevertheless finds it necessary to pay its current expenses, and it counts it a privilege to aid the local Church in any financial enterprises which it may have on hand. To you belongs the duty of instructing us in systematic beneficence—a duty which is now too often neglected. I transfer to your hands this purse, which contains the present funds of our chapter, together with a statement of its assets and liabilities.

Dear friends, you have heard in outline a statement of the work upon which you are now to enter. Do you assume the obligations involved?

Answer. I do.

Will you discharge the duties committed to your care as you have opportunity, and to the best of your ability?

A. I will endeavor so to do, God being my helper.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION BY THE PASTOR.

INAUGURAL BY THE NEW PRESIDENT.

VESPER SERVICE.

Leader. Behold, now, the day draweth toward evening.

Response. Behold the day groweth to an end.

L. The day goeth away.

R. For the shadows of evening are stretched out.

Sing: No. 145.

Leader. And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and prayed. . . . Then the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice.