

## FRANCISCAN PRAYERS AND PRAISES

### 1 THIRD ORDER LITANY

#### *THANKSGIVING*

For the Incarnation, Death, and Resurrection  
of our Lord Jesus Christ:

**We thank you O God.**

For our membership in Christ's Church:

**We thank you O God.**

For the Eucharist, in which we receive the life of the Risen Christ:

**We thank you O God.**

For the inspiration of the life and example of St Francis and St Clare:

**We thank you O God.**

For our calling as followers of Christ in the way of St Francis:

**We thank you O God.**

For the life shared in the Franciscan family:

**We thank you O God.**

For the love and caring of our fellow Tertiaries:

**We thank you O God.**

For the spread of the Third Order throughout the world:

**We thank you O God.**

For the beautiful and life-sustaining world in which we live:

**We thank you O God.**

For the opportunities to serve you in our brothers and sisters, to share their pain and suffering in union with Christ's Passion:

**We thank you O God.**

#### *PENITENCE*

Our insensitivity to the needs of others:

**O Lord forgive.**

The prejudice and fear that hinder love in our hearts:

**O Lord forgive.**

Our narrowness of vision and our shrinking  
from your demands upon us:

**O Lord forgive.**

Our failure to accept change and risk:

**O Lord forgive.**

Our desire to do your work in our own way:

**O Lord forgive.**

Our lack of respect for those who differ from us:

**O Lord forgive.**

Our clinging to the past and fear of the future:

**O Lord forgive.**

Our unwillingness to embrace poverty in relationships,  
and with our possessions:

**O Lord forgive.**

Our looking to this world for security:

**O Lord forgive.**

### *INTERCESSION*

For all Tertiaries who face hostility because  
of their Christian commitment:

**Lord hear our prayer.**

For all aged, sick and housebound Tertiaries:

**Lord hear our prayer.**

For those who work without fellowship with other Tertiaries, especially expatriate  
workers in the worldwide Church:

**Lord hear our prayer.**

For Tertiaries working among the dispossessed,  
the destitute, and the mentally ill:

**Lord hear our prayer.**

For **N** Minister General of the Third Order, and **N** our Minister Provincial:

**Lord hear our prayer.**

For all members of Provincial Chapters, for the Provincial Chapter of the European  
Province, for our Link Tertiaries and Provincial Officers:

**Lord hear our prayer.**

For Area Teams, Area Ministers, Area Formation Guardians, Area Novice Guardians,  
and other Team members:

**Lord hear our prayer.**

For all Local Groups and Local Group Convenors:

**Lord hear our prayer.**

For all postulants and novices of the Third Order:

**Lord hear our prayer.**

For our spiritual directors:

**Lord hear our prayer.**

For the growth of understanding and fellowship  
with Roman Catholic Secular Franciscans:

**Lord hear our prayer.**

For those who doubt their Franciscan calling:

**Lord hear our prayer.**

For those who are tempted to faithlessness or to despair:

**Lord hear our prayer.**

For those who lack the opportunity of frequent Communion:

**Lord hear our prayer.**

## **2 THE PARAPHRASE OF THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father:** Most Holy, our Creator and Redeemer, our Saviour and our Comforter.

**In heaven:** the angels and the saints. You give them light so that they may have knowledge, because you, Lord, are light. You inflame them so that they may love, because you, Lord, are love. You live continually in them so that they may be happy, because you, Lord, are the supreme good, the eternal good, and it is from you all good comes, and without you there is no good.

**Hallowed be your name:** May our knowledge of you become ever clearer, so that we may realize the breadth of your blessing, and extent of your promises, the height of your majesty and the depth of your judgements.

**Your kingdom come:** So that you may reign in us by your grace and bring us to your kingdom, where we shall see you clearly, love you perfectly, be happy in your company and enjoy you for ever.

**Your will be done on earth as in heaven:** That we may love you with our whole heart by always thinking of you; with our whole mind by directing our whole intention towards you and seeking your glory in everything; and with all our strength by spending all our energies and affections of soul and body in the service of your love alone. And may we love our neighbour as ourselves, encouraging them all to love you as best we can, rejoicing at the good fortune of others, just as if it were our own, and sympathizing with their misfortunes, while giving offence to no one.

**Give us today our daily bread:** Your own beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to remind us of the love he showed for us and to help us to understand and appreciate it and everything that he did or said or suffered.

**And forgive us our sins:** In your infinite mercy, and by the power of the passion of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, together with the merits and the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints.

**As we forgive those who sin against us:** And if we do not forgive perfectly, Lord, make us forgive perfectly, so that we may really love our enemies for love of you, and

pray fervently to you for them, returning no one evil for evil, anxious only to serve everybody in you.

**Lead us not into temptation:** Hidden or obvious, sudden or unforeseen.

**But deliver us from evil:** Present, past or future. **Amen.**

### 3 MEDITATION ON THE BEATITUDES

**Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the Children of God.** The servant of God cannot know how much patience and humility he has within himself as long as everything goes well with him. But when the time comes in which those who should do him justice do quite the opposite to him, he has only as much patience and humility as he has on that occasion and no more.

**Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.** There are many who, applying themselves insistently to prayers and good deeds, engage in much abstinence and many mortifications of their bodies, but they are scandalised and quickly roused to anger by a single word which seems injurious to their person, or by some other things which might be taken from them. These persons are not poor in spirit because a person who is truly poor in spirit hates himself, and loves those who strike him on the cheek.

**Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.** The true peacemakers are those who preserve peace of mind and body for love of our Lord Jesus Christ, despite what they suffer in this world.

**Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God.** The truly pure of heart are those who despise the things of earth and seek the things of heaven, and who never cease to adore and behold the Lord God living and true with a pure heart and soul.

Blessed is that servant who does not pride himself on the good that the Lord says or does through him any more than on what he says or does through another. That person sins who wishes to receive more from his neighbour than what he is willing to give of himself to the Lord God.

Blessed is the person who bears with his neighbour in his weakness to the degree that he would wish to be sustained by him if he were in a similar situation.

Blessed is the servant who attributes every good to the Lord God, for he who holds back something for himself hides within himself the money of his Lord God, and that which he thought he had shall be taken away from him

Blessed is the servant who esteems himself no better when he is praised and exalted by people than when he is considered worthless, simple, and despicable; for what a man is before God, that he is and nothing more. Woe to that religious who has been placed in a high position by others and does not wish to come down of his own will. And blessed is that servant who does not place himself in a high position of his own will and always desires to be under the feet of others.

Blessed is that religious who takes no pleasure and joy except in the most holy words and deeds of the Lord and with these leads people to the love of God in joy and gladness. Woe

to that religious who delights in idle and frivolous words and with these provokes people to laughter.

Blessed is the servant who, when he speaks, does not reveal everything about himself in the hope of receiving a reward, and who is not quick to speak but wisely weighs what he should say and how he should reply. Woe to that religious who does not keep in heart the good things the Lord reveals to him, and who does not manifest them to others by his actions, but rather seeks to make such good things known by his words. He thereby receives his reward, while those who listen to him carry away but little fruit.

Blessed is the servant who would accept correction, accusation, and blame from another as patiently as he would from himself.

Blessed is the servant who when he is rebuked quietly agrees, respectfully submits, humbly admits his fault, and willingly makes amends.

Blessed is the servant who is not quick to excuse himself and who humbly accepts shame and blame for a sin, even though he did not commit any fault.

Blessed is the servant who is found to be as humble among his subjects as he would be among his masters.

Blessed is the servant who remains always under the rod of correction. He is the faithful and prudent servant, who for all his offences does not delay in punishing himself, inwardly through contrition and outwardly through confession and penance for what he did.

Blessed is the servant who would love his brother as much when he is sick and cannot repay him as he would when he is well and can repay him.

Blessed is the servant who would love and respect his brother as much when he is far from him as he would when he is with him; and who would not say anything behind his back which in charity he could not say to his face.

Blessed is that servant who stores up in heaven the good things which the Lord has revealed to him and does not desire to reveal them to others in the hope of profiting thereby, for the Most High himself will manifest his deeds to whomsoever he wishes. Blessed is the servant who keeps the secrets of the Lord in his heart

#### **4 THE PRAISES OF GOD**

You are holy, Lord, the only God,  
and your deeds are wonderful.

You are strong.  
You are great.  
You are the Most High.  
You are almighty.  
You, holy Father, are King of heaven and earth.

You are Three and One,

Lord God, all good,  
You are Good, all Good, supreme Good,  
Lord God, living and True.

You are love,  
You are wisdom.  
You are humility.  
You are endurance.

You are rest.  
You are peace.  
You are joy and gladness.  
You are justice and moderation.  
You are all our riches.  
And you suffice for us.

You are beauty.  
You are gentleness.  
You are our protector.  
You are our guardian and defender.  
You are courage.  
You are our haven and our hope.

You are our faith.  
Our great consolation.  
You are our eternal life,  
Great and wonderful Lord,  
God almighty,  
Merciful Saviour.

**5** Almighty, eternal, just and merciful God,  
grant us in our misery and grace,  
to do for you alone  
what we know you want us to do,  
and always  
to desire what pleases you.  
Thus,  
inwardly cleansed,  
interiorly enlightened,  
inflamed by the fire of the Holy Spirit,  
may we be able to follow  
in the footprints of your beloved Son,  
our Lord Jesus Christ.  
And,  
by your grace alone,  
may we make our way to you,  
Most High,  
Who live and rule  
in perfect Trinity and simple Unity,  
and are glorified,  
God all-powerful,  
forever and ever.

Amen.

*From the Letter to the Entire Order; written probably near the end of his life.*

**6** Let us love God  
and adore him  
with a pure heart  
and a pure mind,  
because he who seeks  
this above all else  
has said:

The true worshippers will adore the Father  
in spirit and in truth.  
For all those who worship him  
are to worship him  
in the spirit of truth.  
And let us praise him  
and pray to him  
day and night,  
saying:  
Our Father who art in heaven.  
Since we should pray always  
and never lose heart.

*From the Letter to the Faithful, second version.*

**7** Most high,  
glorious God,  
enlighten the darkness  
of my heart  
and give me, Lord,  
a correct faith,  
a certain hope,  
a perfect charity,  
sense and knowledge,  
so that I may carry out  
your holy and true command.

*The Prayer before the Crucifix, said to date from the time when Francis, praying in the ruined church of San Damiano, heard the voice of the Lord telling him to 'Go and repair my house'.*

**8** Let us all love the Lord God  
with all our heart, all our soul,  
with all our mind and all our strength,  
and with fortitude  
and with total understanding,  
with all our powers,  
with every effort,  
every emotion,  
every desire

and every wish.  
He has given  
and gives to each of us  
our whole body,  
our whole soul  
and our whole life.  
He created us  
and redeemed us,  
and will save us  
by his mercy alone.  
He did and does  
every good thing for us,  
who are miserable and wretched,  
ungrateful and evil.

Therefore  
let us desire nothing else  
let us wish for nothing else  
let nothing else please us  
and cause us delight.

## **9                    PRAISES OF THE VIRTUES**

Hail, Queen Wisdom!  
The Lord save you, with your sister,  
pure, holy Simplicity.  
Lady holy Poverty, God keep you,  
with your sister, holy Humility.  
Lady holy Love, God keep you,  
with your sister, holy Obedience.  
All holy virtues, God keep you,  
God, from whom you proceed and come.  
In all the world, there is not a man  
who can possess any one of you  
without first dying to himself.  
The man who practises one and does not offend  
against the others possesses all;  
The man who offends against one,  
possesses none and violates all.

Each and every one of you puts vice and sin to shame.  
Holy Wisdom puts Satan and all his wiles to shame.  
Pure and holy Simplicity  
puts all the learning of this world,  
all natural wisdom, to shame.  
Holy Poverty puts to shame all greed, avarice,  
and all the anxieties of this life.  
Holy Humility puts pride to shame,  
and all the inhabitants of this world  
and all that is in the world.  
Holy Love puts to shame all the temptations  
of the devil and the flesh and all natural fear.



Holy Obedience puts to shame  
all natural and selfish desires.  
It mortifies our lower nature  
and makes it obey the Spirit and our fellow men.  
Obedience subjects a man to everyone on earth,  
and not only to men,  
but to all the beasts as well and to the wild animals,  
So that they can do what they like with him,  
as far as God allows them. *St Francis*

## **10 THE ANTIPHON FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PASSION**

Holy Virgin Mary,  
among all the women of the world  
there is none like you;  
You are the daughter and handmaid  
of the most high King and Father of heaven;  
you are the mother of our most holy Lord Jesus Christ;  
You are the spouse of the Holy Spirit.  
Pray for us,  
with St Michael the archangel  
and all the powers of heaven  
and all the saints,  
to your most holy and beloved Son,  
our Lord and Master. Amen.

**11** All powerful, all holy,  
most high and supreme God,  
Sovereign good, all good, every good  
you who alone are good,  
it is to you we must give all praise  
all glory, all thanks, all honour, all blessing  
to you we must refer all good always. Amen.

**12** Let us refer all good  
to the most high and supreme Lord God,  
And to acknowledge that every good is his,  
and thank him for everything,  
he from whom all good things come.  
And may he,  
the Highest and Supreme,  
who alone is true God,  
have and be given and receive  
every honour and reverence,  
every praise and blessing,  
every thanks and glory  
for every good is his,  
he who alone is good.

*From the 1221 Rule of the Friars Minor*

**13** Let every creature

in heaven, on earth,  
in the sea and in the depths,  
give praise,  
glory, honour and blessing  
to him  
who suffered so much for us,  
who has given so many good things,  
and who will continue to do so for the future.  
For he is our power and strength,  
he who alone is good,  
who is most high,  
who is all-powerful, admirable and glorious;  
who alone is holy, praiseworthy, and blessed  
throughout endless ages. Amen.

*From the Letter to Faithful Christians (second version):*

*'To all Christian religious, clergy and laity, men and women, and to all who live in the whole world'.*

**14** *One day Francis's eye-disease had to be treated by a surgeon with the cautery. To the fire heating the cauterising iron, he said:*

My Brother Fire,  
outdoing all created things in splendour,  
the Most High created you  
mighty, fair and useful.  
Be kind to me at this hour,  
be courteous,  
for I have long loved you in the Lord.  
I pray the great Lord  
who created you  
to temper your heat now  
so that, burning me gently,  
I may be able to bear it.

**15** *When his illness got worse*  
I thank you, Lord God,  
for all my pains;  
if it pleases you, Lord,  
increase them a hundredfold.  
I shall thankfully accept  
whatever sorrow you give,  
not sparing me;  
for in the fulfilment of your will  
I find my greatest solace.  
Lord Jesus Christ,  
you are the good shepherd.  
You grant us  
your loving mercy  
without our having deserved it,  
and many a time it must endure  
the pangs of sharp pain.

Since you have called me to your flock,  
I beg you by your grace and strength  
that in trouble, anguish and distress  
I may never turn away from you.  
Lord,  
look down on me in my infirmities  
and help me to bear them patiently.

I will rejoice  
at my tribulations and infirmities  
and be strong in the Lord,  
at all times giving thanks to God the Father  
and to his only Son  
our Lord Jesus Christ  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
for the great grace he has given me  
in deigning to assure me,  
his unworthy servant,  
while I am still alive,  
that his kingdom will be mine.

**16** *The day before Francis was imprinted with the marks of Christ's passion, he turned towards the sun and prayed:*

My Lord Jesus Christ,  
two graces I beg of you  
before I die:  
the first is that in my lifetime  
I may feel, in my soul and in my body,  
as far as possible,  
that sorrow which you, sweet Jesus,  
endured in the hour  
of your most bitter passion;  
the second is that I may feel in my heart,  
as far as possible,  
that abundance of love with which you,  
Son of God,  
were inflamed, so as willingly to endure  
so great a passion for us sinners.

**17** *In response to God's love:*

May the burning and tender might  
of your love,  
I beseech you, O Lord,  
ravish my soul  
from all earthly things:  
so that I may die  
for love of your love,  
as you deigned to die  
for love of my love.

**18** My Lord,  
I am yours.  
You know  
I have nothing  
besides my tunic, cord and underpants.  
And even these three things are yours.  
So what can I give you?

**19** Who are you,  
Lord of infinite goodness, wisdom and power,  
who deign to visit me,  
a vile and abominable worm?  
My Lord Jesus Christ,  
I thank you for the great love and charity  
you show me.  
For it is a sign of great love  
when the Lord punishes his servant  
for all his misdeeds in this world  
rather than punish him in the next.  
And I am joyfully prepared  
to undergo every trial  
and every adversity which you, God,  
are pleased to send me  
for my sins.

**20** *Astonished and disappointed at the hostile way distinguished and respected people reacted to his embassy of poverty, Francis spoke thus to the Lord:*

Blessed are you,  
Lord God,  
for hiding these things  
from the learned and clever  
and revealing them to little children.  
Yes, Father, for that is what it has pleased you to do.  
Jesus, Father and Lord of my life,  
deliver me from their evil counsels  
and suffer me not to fall  
into similar condemnation,  
but grant me by your grace  
to find what I am seeking,  
for I am your servant  
and the son of your handmaid.

**21** Our Creator, Redeemer and Saviour,  
you are the only true God,  
in you is the fulness of goodness,  
you are the true and sovereign good.  
You alone are good,  
loving, gentle, sweet and lovable,  
holy, just, true and fair,  
kind, innocent and pure.

In you is all pardon,  
grace and glory  
for all the repentant, for the just,  
for all who share your joy in heaven.

Let nothing separate us from you.  
Everywhere, at any place,  
at any hour and at any time,  
daily, ceaselessly,  
let us truly and humbly  
believe in you,  
love, honour and worship,  
praise, bless and glorify you,  
serve you and give thanks to you,  
most high, sovereign, eternal God,  
Trinity and Unity,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
Creator of all things  
and Saviour of all who have faith in you,  
who put their hope in you  
and who love you.

You are without beginning or end,  
unchanging, invisible,  
ineffable and inscrutable;  
you are sublime and great,  
mild and lovable,  
the source of joy.  
We desire you  
above all else  
forever and ever. Amen.

*An act of praise from Chapter 22 of the unconfirmed Rule of 1221 rephrased in the form of a prayer.*

**22** You are worthy, Lord  
to receive honour and praise.  
Praise the Lord, all you who fear him.  
Hail, Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with you.  
Bless the Lord, heaven and earth,  
bless him, seas and rivers;  
children of God, praise the Lord!  
This is the day the Lord has made,  
let us rejoice and be glad.  
You are the King of Israel.  
Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!  
Praise the Lord, for he is good;  
let all who read this praise the Lord!  
praise the Lord, for he is good;  
Bless the Lord, all you his works,  
you birds of heaven, praise the Lord!

Bless the Lord, all you children,  
young men and maidens,  
praise the Lord!  
Worthy is the Lamb that was slain  
to receive praise, honour and glory.  
Blessed be the Holy Trinity  
and Undivided Unity.  
Holy Michael the Archangel, defend us!

*Apparently Francis inscribed these invocations with his own hand on a wooden tablet. It was intended for the altar of a hermitage at Cesi di Termi in Umbria.*

**23** Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is discord, union;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
Where there is sadness, joy.  
Grant that we may not so much seek to be  
consoled as to console;  
To be understood as to understand;  
To be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

*This prayer, though not by Francis himself, is much in his spirit.*

**24** Lord God,  
your words gave Francis  
freedom to become your servant.  
Set us free to follow his path of poverty,  
to proclaim his message of peace,  
and to live his life of prayer  
in the power of the Spirit;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who with you and the Holy Spirit  
gives freedom through forgiveness  
and new life in your love. Amen

**25 FOR ALL FRANCISCANS**  
O Father of the forsaken  
and Lover of the unloved,  
make us bearers of your presence to all mankind.  
Teach us to walk in the poverty of your Son  
and to be among all people as those who serve;  
in the name of him who for our sakes  
became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**26** O God,

your love led Francis and Clare  
to establish our three Orders.  
Draw us into your love, that, in its perfection,  
we may grow in love towards all with whom we have to do;  
for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
who gives himself in love to all. Amen.

**27 FOR THE FIRST ORDER**

Grant, O heavenly Father,  
that as your servant Francis carried  
the love and peace of your Son  
into the hearts of all who knew him,  
so may those who seek to follow his example  
shed abroad that same love and peace  
in the minds of all and in the dark places of the earth;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**28 FOR THE SECOND ORDER**

Lord God,  
pour your abundant blessing  
on those who after the pattern of blessed Clare  
have left all to follow you  
in a life of poverty, prayer and penance;  
assist them with your grace,  
that they may persevere  
in their vocation to the end,  
and that all their needs may be supplied;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord . . .

**29** Lord God,  
who gave a clear shining light  
amid the darkness of this world  
in the holiness of blessed Clare,  
through whom you renew your Church  
with a continual increase;  
grant us, we pray,  
to follow in her footsteps  
so that at the last, we may rejoice with her  
in the clear light of your eternal glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**30 FOR THE THIRD ORDER**

Lord God,  
who opened the eyes of blessed Francis  
to the vocation of those you call to serve you  
in the world:  
grant such grace to the members of the Third Order  
that being crucified with Christ  
they may show forth among all  
the radiance of his risen life;  
who with you and the Holy Spirit  
is alive and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**31 THE BLESSING FOR BROTHER LEO**

To the prayers of the saints I commend you:  
May our blessed Lady pray for you,  
May Saint Francis pray for you,  
May Saint Clare pray for you,  
May all Franciscan saints pray for you.  
And I shall give you the blessing which  
Saint Francis gave to Brother Leo, his companion:  
The Lord bless you and keep you:  
The Lord make his face shine upon you  
and be gracious to you:  
The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you his peace.  
My brothers and sisters, the Lord bless you. Amen.

**32** God the King of all  
bless you in heaven and on earth.  
I bless you as I can and more than I can.  
And what I cannot,  
may he who can do all things do in you.  
May you find every blessing your desire  
and may whatever you worthily ask  
come to pass for you.

**33** Where there is love and wisdom,  
there is neither fear nor ignorance.  
Where there is patience and humility,  
there is neither anger nor annoyance.  
Where there is poverty and joy,  
there is neither cupidity nor avarice.  
Where there is peace and contemplation,  
there is neither care nor restlessness.  
Where fear of the Lord guards the house,  
there no enemy can enter.  
Where there is mercy and prudence,  
there is neither excess nor harshness.

*The Admonitions, xxii-xxv, xxvii, xxviii*

**34 PRAYER IN PREPARATION FOR COMMUNION**

Like as the watchman looks for the morning,  
even so do we wait for you, O Christ:  
Come to us in the dawning of the day,  
and make yourself known to us  
in the breaking of the bread;  
for you are our God for ever and ever.

**35 A MORNING COLLECT**

The night has passed and the day lies open before us;  
Let us pray with one heart and mind.  
As we rejoice in the gift of this new day  
so may the light of your presence O God



set our hearts on fire with love for you, now and for ever,  
**Amen.**

### **36 AN EVENING COLLECT**

As our evening prayer comes before you O God  
so may your mercy come down upon us  
to cleanse our hearts  
and set us free to sing your praise  
now and for ever **Amen**

### **37 SOME SHORT PRAYERS**

My God and my All.

Who are you, my Lord and my God?  
And who am I, your most unworthy servant?

Most holy Lord, I desire to love  
and to serve you more and more.

My Lord and my God:  
I have given you all my heart and body;  
and I most earnestly desire,  
if only I may know how,  
to do still more for you.

#### ***Prayer used by TSSF in preparing for General Chapter, York 1999***

Gather us, Lord,  
into one company;  
Build us up as  
LIVING STONES  
from which  
you will rebuild  
your Church  
and kindle in us  
the same fire of love  
as burned in Blessèd Francis,  
for you,  
for all your children  
and for the whole of creation. Amen.

## FRANCISCAN HYMNS

1. All creatures of our God and King,  
Lift up your voice and with us sing  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Thou burning sun with golden beam,  
Thou silver moon with softer gleam  
O praise him, O praise him,  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.
2. Thou rushing wind that art so strong,  
Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,  
O praise him, Alleluia!  
Thou rising morn in praise rejoice,  
Ye lights of evening find a voice.
3. Thou flowing water, pure and clear,  
Make music for thy Lord to hear,  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Thou fire so masterful and bright,  
That givest man both warmth and light.
4. Dear mother earth, who day by day  
Unfoldest blessings on our way,  
O praise him, Alleluia!  
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,  
Let them his glory also show.
5. And all ye men of tender heart,  
Forgiving others, take your part,  
O sing ye, Alleluia!  
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,  
Praise God and on him cast your care
6. And thou, most kind and gentle death,  
Waiting to hush our latest breath,  
O praise him, Alleluia!  
Thou leadest home the child of God,  
And Christ our Lord the way hath trod.
7. Let all things their Creator bless,  
And worship him in humbleness,  
O praise him, Alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
And praise the Spirit, Three in One.

Tune: Lasst uns erfreuen EH 519, NEH 263, AMR 172, AMNS 105)

- 2.1 Hail to Christ's wounds, which first did hide  
Within Saint Francis' loving heart,  
Ere to his hands and feet and side  
Their form without did love impart.

2. By grace and love, within our breast,  
O may those wounds be graven deep,  
And seal us for that Sabbath-rest  
Which saints with Christ on high do keep.

3. Jesu, will glory be to thee,  
Who reignest in each lowly heart,  
And one through all eternity  
With Father and with Spirit art. Amen

Tune: Breslau EH 484, NEH 76, AMR 333, AMNS 237)

3.1. The first good joy  
that Francis had,  
It was the joy of earth,  
To drink the blessed cup of life,  
Of beauty and of mirth.  
Of beauty and of mirth, good Lord,  
Then happy may we be,  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost  
To all eternity.

2. The next good joy that Francis had,  
It was to give up all,  
To find our dear Lord Jesus Christ  
And follow at his call.  
To follow at his call, good Lord .

3. The third good joy that Francis had,  
It was to beg his bread,  
To have, like Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Not where to lay his head.  
Not where to lay his head, good Lord .

4. The fourth good joy that Francis had,  
It was God's praise to sing,  
To bid his creatures great and small  
Rejoice in everything.  
Rejoice in everything, good Lord .

5. The fifth good joy that Francis had,  
It was to clothe Saint Clare,  
To see her wooed by Jesus Christ,,  
His poverty to share.  
His poverty to share, good Lord .

6. The sixth good joy that Francis had,  
It was to suffer pain,  
To find in Jesus Christ our Lord  
That all our loss is gain.  
That all our loss is gain, good Lord .

7. The last good joy that Francis had  
It was to yield his breath  
To lie upon dear Mother Earth  
And welcome Sister Death  
To welcome Sister Death good Lord...

4 Francis in the poor and foolish  
Of the world community  
Celebrating all creation  
Show us how we all might be.

Through the wounds that you were granted  
Sharing with the world's despised  
Outcast help us live your vision  
Always by god's love surprised

Help us meet the wolf within us  
Fears we cannot bear to name  
Grant us strength to overcome them,  
Courage not to stay the same

Help us live that urgent calling  
Trusting God will make us free  
Through commitment to each other  
Being in simplicity

Francis help us to go deeper  
See beyond the birds and flowers  
Through your joy in God's creation  
Greater truths that must be ours.

5 My ears have heard the music of the herald of the King As he danced the hills of  
Umbria God's praises glad to sing While calling us to journey to our homes in  
heaven above in poverty and love

*Praise we now the King of Heaven  
Sing all peoples alleluia  
Christ who came to dwell among us  
In the fullness of his love.*

My life will speak in silence of the splendour of his grace As I kneel in  
contemplation of the beauty of his face As I now in supplication that the world may  
be set free By the Son who died for me

*Praise and glory to the Saviour  
Sing all peoples alleluia  
Worship Jesus the Redeemer  
Who died to win our love*

My eyes have seen the radiance of the everlasting hills And my ears have heard  
the music which all earthly clamour stills My heart is filled with longing for my Lord  
in heaven above and the fullness of his love

*Glory be to God the Father  
Sing all peoples Alleluya  
Praise to son and Holy Spirit  
Blest Trinity of Love*