

Funeral Hymns (1746)¹

[Baker list, #115]

Editorial Introduction:

In eighteenth-century English spirituality the life of a Christian in this world was generally seen as a pilgrimage, with death bringing release from our probationary state into the reward of the afterlife. Charles Wesley was deeply shaped by this perspective, often commenting at funerals about how he envied the dead, who had reached their peace. Of course, this assumed that they had lived as faithful pilgrims.

Not only did Charles share this spirituality of the faithful life, the good death and the glorious afterlife; he repeatedly gave it poetic expression. He made a regular practice of writing hymns on the occasion of the death of friends or prominent members of the Methodist movement. These hymns comment on their faithful lives and affirm their translation into the blessed hope of the Christian departed. An early set of examples was published in *HSP* (1742), 124–31. Then, in 1746, Charles issued a volume devoted entirely to *Funeral Hymns*.

Several of the hymns in this collection are general in nature, not identifying a particular person. They were intended to be used broadly in celebrating the good death of the faithful and preparing the living for their own death. Hymn 5 proved to be particularly popular among the Methodist people. The collection enjoyed steady sales, running through eight editions in England and Ireland through the next four decades.

Editions:

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Hymn 1.

- 1 Ah, sister in Jesus adieu!
Thy warfare is happily o'er;
Thy spirit hath fought its way through,
And pitched on the heavenly shore:
Thy course upon earth is all run,
The days of thy mourning are past,
The joys that above thou hast won
Forever and ever shall last.

- 2 O blessed estate of the dead,
The dead that have died in the Lord!
From trouble and misery freed,
And sure of their endless reward:
By sorrow no longer oppressed,
When joined to the spirits above,
With Jesus in glory they rest,
They rest in the arms of his love.

- 3 O when will the Saviour extend
The arms of his mercy to me!
The days of my pilgrimage end,
My soul from its prison set free?
When will the dear moment arrive,
Which long I have pined for in vain:
And still I would die to revive,
And suffer with Jesus to reign.

- 4 Ah! Give me to bow my faint head,
My sorrowful soul to resign,
From pain everlastingly freed,
To sink on the bosom divine;
My Saviour, why dost thou delay
To call a poor wanderer home?
Come quickly, and bear me away;
The bride and the Spirit say, Come!

Hymn 2.

- 1 Rejoice for a brother deceased,
(Our loss is his infinite gain)
A soul out of prison released,
And freed from its bodily chain:
With songs let us follow his flight,
And mount with his spirit above,
Escaped to the mansions of light,
And lodged in the Eden of love.
- 2 Our brother the haven hath gained,
Out-flying the tempest and wind,
His rest he hath sooner obtained,
And left his companions behind;
Still tossed on a sea of distress,
Hard toiling to make the blest shore,
Where all is assurance and peace,
And sorrow and sin are no more.
- 3 There all the ship's company meet,
Who sailed with the Saviour beneath,
With shouting each other they greet,
And triumph o'er trouble and death:
The voyage of life's at an end,
The mortal affliction is past,
The age that in heaven they spend
Forever and ever shall last.

Hymn 3.²

- 1 Hosanna to Jesus on high!
Another is entered his rest,
Another is 'scaped to the sky,
And lodged in Immanuel's breast:
The soul of our sister is gone
To heighten the triumph above,
Exalted to Jesus's throne,
And clasped in the arms of his love.

²Stanzas 5 & 6 are omitted in the 4th edn. (1765) and following.

- 2 What fulness of rapture is there,
 While Jesus his glory displays,
And purples the heavenly air,
 And scatters the odours of grace!
He looks—and his servants in light,
 The blessing ineffable meet!
He smiles—and they faint at the sight,
 And fall overwhelmed at his feet!
- 3 How happy the angels that fall,
 Transported at Jesus's name!
The saints whom he soonest shall call
 To share in the feast of the Lamb!
No longer imprisoned in clay,
 Who next from his dungeon shall fly,
Who first shall be summoned away?
 My merciful God—is it I!
- 4 O Jesus, if this is³ thy will
 That suddenly I should depart,
Thy counsel⁴ of mercy reveal,
 And whisper the call to my heart:
O give me a signal to know
 If soon thou wouldst have *me* remove,
And leave the dull body below,
 And fly to the regions of love.
- 5 Thou know'st in the spirit of prayer
 I groan for a speedy release,
And long have I pined to be there
 Where sorrow and misery cease:
Where all the temptation is past,
 And loss and affliction is o'er,
And anguish is ended at last,
 And trouble and death are no more.

³“Is” changed to “be” in 2nd edn. (1746) and following.

⁴Ori., “council”; corrected in 4th edn. (1765) and following.

- 6 Come then to my rescue (I pray
 For this, and for nothing beside)
Make ready, and bear me away,
 Thy weary disconsolate bride:
The days of my mourning and pain
 Cut short, and in pity set free,
And give me to rest, and to reign
 Forever, and ever in thee.

Hymn 4.
(For One Just Departing.)

- 1 O sister in Jesus, arise,
 And joyful his summons obey;
He beckons thee up to the skies,
 In mercy he calls thee away:
His pity hath signed thy release,
 Return to thy native abode,
Make haste to the mansions of bliss,
 And fly to the bosom of God.
- 2 To waft from the valley of tears,
 To bear thee triumphantly home,
The chariot of Israel appears,
 The convoy of angels is come!
With envy we let thee depart,
 Thy happier spirit resign;
The purchase of Jesus thou art,
 And God is eternally thine.
- 3 Go then to thy glorious estate,
 No longer our partner in woe,
No longer oppressed with our weight,
 To Jesus in paradise go:

Redeemed from a world of distress
Thou hear'st the acceptable word,
He bids thee depart in his peace,
And die for the sight of thy Lord.

- 4 Escape to a country above,
 Where only enjoyment is found,
And springs of ecstasical love,
 And rivers of pleasure abound:
No dreadful alarums of war,
 No famine, or sorrows, or pains,
No sound of the trumpet is there,
 But Jesus eternally reigns.
- 5 He reigns in the holiest place,
 He dwells in the midst of his own,
And fully discovers his face,
 And fills them with raptures unknown;
With bliss inexpressibly great
 Their glorified spirits o'erflow—
Go, sister, and share their estate,
 To Jesus in paradise go.
- 6 O Saviour, her spirit receive,
 Which into thy hands we resign,
And us from our sorrows retrieve,
 And us to our company join:
Our number and glory complete,
 With all that are landed before,
With thee let us joyfully meet,
 To part and to suffer no more.

Hymn 5.⁵
(On Sight of a Corpse.)

- 1 Ah lovely appearance of death!
No sight upon earth is so fair;
Not all the gay pageants that *breathe*
Can with a dead body compare:
With solemn delight I survey
The corpse when the spirit is fled,
In love with the beautiful clay,
And longing to lie in its stead.

- 2 How blest is our brother, bereft
Of all that could burden his mind,
How easy the soul that hath left
This wearisome body behind!
Of evil incapable thou,
Whose relics with envy I see,
No longer in misery now,
No longer a sinner like me.

- 3 This earth is affected no more
With sickness, or shaken with pain,
The war in the members is o'er,
And never shall vex him again:
No anger henceforward, or shame,
Shall redden this innocent clay,
Extinct is the animal flame,
And passion is vanished away.

- 4 The languishing head is at rest,
Its thinking and aching are o'er,
The quiet immovable breast
Is heaved by affliction no more:

⁵See Charles's revised version in *MS Funeral Hymns*, 109–10.

The heart is no longer the seat
Of trouble and torturing pain,
It ceases to flutter and beat,
It never shall flutter again.

5 The lids he so seldom could close,
By sorrow forbidden to sleep,
Sealed up in eternal repose,
Have strangely forgotten to weep:
The fountains can yield no supplies,
These hollows from water are free,
The tears are all wiped from these eyes,
And evil they never shall see.

6 To mourn, and to suffer, is mine,
While bound in a prison I breathe,
And still for deliverance pine,
And press to the issues of death:
What now with my tears I bedew,
O might I this moment become,
My spirit created anew,
My flesh be consigned to the tomb.

Hymn 6.

1 'Tis finished! 'Tis done!
The spirit is fled,
The pris'ner is gone,
The Christian is dead!
The Christian is living
In Jesus's⁶ love,
And gladly receiving
A kingdom above.

2 All honour and praise
Are Jesus's due;
Supported by grace,
He fought his way through;

⁶Ori., "Jesus his"; changed in 4th edn. (1765) and following.

Triumphantly glorious
Through Jesus's zeal,
And more than victorious
O'er sin, death, and hell.

3 Then let us record
The conquering name,
Our Captain and Lord
With shoutings proclaim:
Who trust in his passion
And follow our head,
To certain salvation
We all shall be led.

4 O Jesus, lead on
Thy militant care,
And give us the crown
Of righteousness there;
Where dazzled with glory
The seraphim gaze,
Or prostrate adore thee
In silence of praise.

5 Come, Lord, and display
Thy sign in the sky,
And bear us away
To mansions on high;
The kingdom be given,
The purchase divine,
And crown us in heaven
Eternally thine.

Hymn 7.

1 O when shall we sweetly remove!
O when shall we enter our rest!
Return to the Sion above,
The mother of spirits distressed!

That city of God, the great King,
Where sorrow and death are no more,
But saints our Immanuel sing,
And cherub and seraph adore.

- 2 Not all the archangels can tell
The joys of that holiest place,
Where Jesus is pleased to reveal
The light of his heavenly face;
Where caught in the rapturous flame
The *sight beatific* they prove,
And walk in the light of the Lamb,
And bask in the beams of his love.
- 3 Who then upon earth can conceive
The bliss that in heaven they share;
Who then the dark world would not leave,
And cheerfully die to be there?
O Saviour, regard our complaints,
Arrayed in thy majesty come,
Fulfil the desires of thy saints,
And suddenly gather us home.
- 4 Thou know'st in the spirit of prayer
We groan thy appearing to see,
Resigned to the burden we bear,
But longing to triumph with thee.
'Tis good at thy word to be here,
'Tis better in thee to be gone,
And see thee in glory appear,
And rise to a share of thy throne.
- 5 To mourn for thy coming is sweet,
To weep at thy longer delay;
But thou whom we hasten to meet
Shalt chase all our sorrows away:
The tears shall be wiped from our eyes
When thee we behold in the cloud,
And echo the joys of the skies,
And shout to the trumpet of God.

- 6 Come then to thy languishing bride,
 Who went'st to prepare us a place,
 Receive us with thee to abide,
 And rest in thy mercy's embrace.
 Our heaven of heavens be this
 Thy fulness of mercy to prove,
 Implunged in the glorious abyss,
 And lost in the ocean of love.

Hymn 8.

- 1 Away with our sorrow and fear!
 We soon shall recover our home;
 The city of saints shall appear,
 The day of eternity come:
 From earth we shall quickly remove,
 And mount to our native abodes,⁷
 The house of our Father above,
 The palace of angels and gods.⁸
- 2 Our mourning is all at an end,
 When raised by the life-giving Word,
 We see the new city descend,
 Adorned as a bride for her lord:
 The city so holy and clean
 No sorrow can breathe in the air,
 No gloom of affliction or sin,
 No shadow of evil is there.
- 3 By faith we already behold
 That lovely Jerusalem *here!*
 Her walls are of jasper and gold,
 As crystal her buildings are clear:

⁷“Abodes” changed to “abode” in 4th edn. (1765) and following.

⁸“Gods” changed to “God” in 2nd edn. (1746) and following.

Immovably founded in *grace*
She stands, as she ever hath stood,
And brightly her builder displays,
And flames with the glory of God.

4 No need of the sun in that day
Which never is followed by night,
Where Jesus's beauties display
A pure and a permanent light:
The Lamb is their light and their sun,
And lo! By reflection they shine,
With Jesus ineffably one,
And bright in effulgence divine.

5 The saints in his presence receive
Their great and eternal reward,
In Jesus, in heaven, they live,
They reign in the smile of their Lord:
The flame of angelical love
Is kindled at Jesus's face,
And all the enjoyment above
Consists in the RAPTUROUS GAZE.

Hymn 9.
[On the Death of Robert Jones, Esq.]⁹

1 Thanks be to God, whose faithful love
Hath called another to his breast,
Translated him to joys above,
To mansions of eternal rest.

2 Ripe for the glorious harvest made,
He *first* was saved from inbred sin;
The angel *then* his charge obeyed,
And thrust the mortal sickle in.

3 He the good fight of faith hath won,
He heard with joy the welcome word;
“Hither come up (thy work is done)
And reign forever with thy Lord.”

⁹Manuscript precursors of this hymn appear in MS Shent, 161a–161b; and MS Thirty, 77–79. The identification of Robert Jones is in MS Shent. For background on Jones, see *Elegy on Robert Jones* (1742).

- 4 By ministerial sp'rits conveyed,
Lodged in the garner of the sky,
He rests, in Abraham's bosom laid,
He lives with God, no more to die.
- 5 Thanks be to God, through Christ alone,
Who gave our friend the victory:
O Master, say to *me*, Well done!
May I rejoice to die in thee.
- 6 Thus may we all our warfare end,
In strugglings¹⁰ to the upper skies
Our last triumphant moments spend
And grasp in death th' immortal prize.
- 7 O that we all may thus break through,
The crown with holy violence seize,
The starry crown to conquest due,
The crown of life and righteousness.
- 8 Will not the righteous judge bestow
The prize on all who seek him here,
And long, while sojourning below,
To see their much-loved Lord appear?
- 9 He will (our hearts cry out) he will
These eager wishes more than meet,
These infinite desires fulfil,
And make our happiness complete.
- 10 We all shall see our life appear,
(Our hidden life in Jesus found)
Our dust th' archangel's voice shall hear,
And kindle at the trumpet's sound.
- 11 O what a soul-o'erpow'ring thought!
'Tis ecstasy too great to bear!
We all at once shall be upcaught,
And meet our Jesus in the air.

¹⁰“Strugglings” changed to “struggling” in 4th edn. (1765) and following.

- 12 Eternity stands forth in sight!
 We plunge us in that boundless sea,
 Expatiate in those plains of light,
 The regions of eternity!
- 13 Ev'n now we taste the heav'nly powers,
 The glorious joys of angels prove,
 A whole eternity is ours,
 A whole eternity of love!

Hymn 10.
(On the Death of Mrs. A[nn]e C[owper].)¹¹

- 1 And is the struggle past,
 And hath she groaned her last?
 Rise, my soul, and take thy flight,
 Haste, th' ascending triumph share,
 Trace her to the plains of light,
 Grasp her happy spirit there!
- 2 I *know* her now possessed
 Of everlasting rest!
 Now I *find* her lodged above,
 Now her heavenly joy I *feel*,
 Ecstasy of joy and love,
 Glorious and unspeakable.
- 3 I triumph in her bliss;
 The proof, the token this!
 This my dying friend's bequest,
 This the answer of her prayer,
 Speaks her entered into rest,
 Tells me I shall meet her there.
- 4 Lord, I accept the sign,
 And bless thy love divine:

¹¹The manuscript precursor of this hymn in MS Shent, 167a–167b specifies that this is for Anne Cowper. Another hymn for the same occasion is found in *MSP*, 3:285–88. Anne (1713–43) and her sister Frances were daughters of William Cowper, Esq. (1695–1756), Knight Harbinger to George II. Their mother Anne was deceased by 1741. The sisters lived in East Barnet, Hertfordshire and were friends with Lord and Lady Huntingdon, whose home in Enfield Chase was nearby. The sisters were converted and drawn into the Methodist movement by CW in Oct. 1741. He intrusted them to Lady Huntingdon's care. In Feb. 1742 Anne and her sister accompanied the Countess first to Bath, then to her estate in Donington Park, where Francis died on May 27, 1742 (see pp. 17–19 below). Anne returned to East Barnet, but soon became ill herself, and died September 7, 1743.

Thou hast through the mortal vale
Led her to the realms above,
Caught her from the toils of hell,
Placed her on a throne of love.

5 I, I shall conquer too,
Like her shall all break through!
To my heav'nly friends conveyed,
I shall share the marriage-feast:
Pants my soul on earth delayed,
Gasps for her eternal rest.

6 Come, O my Saviour, come,
Receive thy servant home!
Now recall thy banished one,
Draw me from the tent of clay:
Hear'st thou not thy Spirit's groan?
Come, my Saviour, come away!

7 O come, the Spirit cries,
O come, the bride replies!
Thee I call with ev'ry breath;
Let me die to see thy day,
Snatch me from this life of death;
Come, my Saviour, come away!

Hymn 11.
(On the Death of E. B. of Kingswood.)

1 Rejoice, ye sons of light,
Over a saint deceased!
The happy soul hath took its flight,
And entered into rest:
Tossed to and fro no more
On life's tempestuous sea,
The happy soul hath reached the shore
Of calm eternity.

- 2 She at the welcome word
 Is out of prison fled,
Released from her oppressive lord,
 And free among the dead:
 The bloody husband's power
 Did with her breath expire,
And lo! She lives to die no more
 Amidst yon angel-choir.
- 3 The spirits of the just
 Made perfect *here* in love,
With these, and all the heavenly host,
 She finds her place above;
 One with the saints in light,
 The witnesses of God,
She washed her robes, and made them white
 In the Redeemer's blood.
- 4 Her soul was cleansed below,
 And saved from sin's remains,
Whiter on earth than Salmon's snow,
 She now with Jesus reigns;
 Long in the furnace tried,
 Long in the vale distressed,
The Lamb at last hath called his bride
 Up to the marriage-feast.
- 5 With steadfast faith and hope
 Let us her steps pursue,
Cheerful like her the cross take up,
 Like her the world break through;
 Like her our faith approve,
 And patiently endure,
And make, by all the works of love,
 Our heavenly calling sure.

Hymn 12.
(On the Death of Mrs. F. C.¹²)

- 1 Thanks be to God alone
 Through Jesus Christ his Son!
He who hath for all obtained,
 Gives our friend the victory;
Sister, thou the prize hast gained,
 Died for him who died for thee.
- 2 The mortal hour is past,
 Thou hast o'ercome at last,
Freed from pain, forever freed,
 Ended is thy glorious strife,
Death, the latest foe, is dead,
 Death is swallowed up of life.
- 3 Thy¹³ lamb-like innocence
 Is soon departed hence,
From the world of sin and pain
 Thou art clean escaped away,
Saved from sin's infectious stain,
 Taken from the evil day.
- 4 Stranger to guilty fears
 Thou lived'st thy twenty years,
From the great transgression free;
 Never did the poison spread,
Jesus, e'er it rose in thee,
 Jesus crushed the serpent's head.
- 5 His Spirit's gentlest art
 Opened thy simple heart,
The eternal gospel-word,
 Lydia-like thou didst receive,
Fall before thy bleeding Lord,
 Own him, and with ease believe.

¹²A manuscript precursor of this hymn appears in MS Thirty, 152–55. There it is specified that this hymn is for Miss Frances (Fanny) Cowper (1716–42), of Enfield Chase, who died at the house of Selina, Countess of Huntingdon in May 1742. See the note on Hymn 10 above.

¹³“Thy” changed to “the” in 3rd edn. (London, 1753) and following.

- 6 Soon as thy heart did feel
 The pardon-stamping seal,
Heard thy soul the warning cry,
 “Here thou hast not long to stay,
Rise, my love, make haste to die,
 Rise, my love, and come away!”
- 7 Thy cheerful soul obeyed,
 Through sufferings¹⁴ perfect made,
Perfect made in a short space,
 Thy resigned, and Christ-like soul,
Started forth, and won the race,
 Reached at once the glorious goal.
- 8 Aloft the spirit flies,
 And gains her native skies!
Kindred souls salute her there,
 Springing from their¹⁵ azure throne,
All in shouts their joy declare,
 All their newborn sister own.
- 9 Th’ angelic army sings,
 And clap their golden wings!
Harping with their harps they praise
 Him, through whom she all o’ercame,
Sharer of his richest grace,
 Closest follower of the Lamb.
- 10 From love’s soft witchcraft free
 Her spotless purity
Lived to only Christ below;
 Higher now she reigns above,
Mightier joys advanced to know,
 Honoured with his choicest love.
- 11 Among the morning-stars
 A brighter crown she wears,
With peculiar glories graced,
 Seated on a loftier throne,
To superior raptures raised,
 Nearest God’s eternal Son.

¹⁴“Sufferings” changed to “suffering” in 2nd edn. (1746) and following.

¹⁵“Their” changed to “the” in 3rd edn. (London, 1753) and following.

- 12 Mixed with the virgin-train
 She charms th' ethereal plain,
With the Lamb forever found;
 Angels listen while she sings,
Catch th' inimitable sound,
 Music for the King of kings.
- 13 O happy happy soul,
 Thy heavenly joy is full!
Thee the Lamb hath made his bride,
 Called thee to his feast above,
Thee he now hath glorified,
 Taught thee the new song of love.
- 14 O that at last ev'n I,
 Like thee might sweetly die!
Die, and leave a¹⁶ world of woe,
 Die out of the reach of sin,
Die the joys of heaven to know;
 Open, Lord, and take me in!
- 15 Give me thy bliss to share,
 The meanest spirit there,
Only let me see thy face,
 See with thee my happier friend,
At an awful distance gaze,
 Taste the joys that never end.
- 16 Thou wilt cut short my years,
 And wipe away my tears:
Lo! I wait thy leisure still,
 Humbly at thy footstool lie,
Calm to suffer all thy will,
 Glad in thee to live and die.

¹⁶“A” changed to “the” in 5th edn. (1770) and following.

Hymn 13.

- 1 We know, by faith we know,
 If this vile house of clay,
This tabernacle sink below
 In ruinous decay,
 We have a house above
 Not made with mortal hands,
And firm as our Redeemer's love
 That heav'nly fabric stands.

- 2 It stands securely high,
 Indissolubly sure,
Our glorious mansion in the sky
 Shall evermore endure.
 O were we entered there,
 To perfect heaven restored,
O were we all caught up to share
 The triumph of our Lord!

- 3 Beneath our earthly load
 We labour now and groan,
And hasten tow'rd that house of God,
 And struggle to be gone:
 We would not, Lord, desire
 An end of misery,
But thee our earnest souls require,
 We long to die for thee.

- 4 For *this* in faith we call,
 For *this* we weep and pray,
O might the tabernacle fall,
 O might we 'scape away!
 Full of immortal hope,
 We urge the restless strife,
And hasten to be swallowed up
 Of everlasting life.

5 Absent, alas! From God,
 We in the body mourn,
And pine to quit this mean abode,
 And languish to return:
 Jesus, regard our vows,
 And change our faith to sight,
And clothe us with our nobler house
 Of empyrean light.

6 O let us put on thee
 In perfect holiness,
And rise prepared thy face to see,
 Thy bright unclouded face:
 Thy grace with glory crown,
 Who hast the earnest given,
And now triumphantly come down
 And take our souls to heaven.

Hymn 14.

1 Jesus, come! Our utmost Jesus,
 Save us from the world beneath,
From a life of pain release us,
 From a life of daily death:
Listen to the ceaseless moaning
 Of thy plaintive turtledove;
Answer, Lord, thy Spirit's groaning,
 Take us to the¹⁷ church above.

2 Many a soul is lodged before us
 In the garner of the grave:
Jesus, come! To life restore us,
 Us from all our troubles save,
Us in infinite compassion
 To our happier friends unite,
Raise us to our highest station,
 Rank us with thy saints in light.

¹⁷“The” changed to “our” in 2nd edn. (1746) and following.

- 3 Still we bear about thy dying
 In our feeble bodies here,
Languishing for thee, and crying
 Light of life in us appear,
Take us to thy kind embraces,
 To thy heavenly banquet lead;
Wipe the sorrow from our faces,
 Set the crown upon our head.

Hymn 15.

- 1 Hosanna to God
 In his highest abode;
 All heaven be joined,
To extol the Redeemer and friend of mankind!
 He claims all our praise,
 Who in infinite grace
 Again hath stooped down,
And caught up a worm to inherit a crown.
- 2 Our partner below,
 Our brother in woe,
 From his sorrow and pain
He hath called to the pleasures that always¹⁸ remain;
 He hath snatched him away
 From a cottage of clay
 To a kingdom above,
A kingdom of glory, and gladness, and love.
- 3 Our friend is restored
 To the joy of his Lord,
 With triumph departs,
But speaks by his death to our echoing hearts:
 “Follow after,” he cries,
 As he mounts to the skies,
 Follow after your friend,
To the blissful enjoyments that never shall end.

¹⁸Ori., “Alway”; corrected in 3rd edn. (1747) and following.

- 4 And shall we not press
 To that harbour of peace,
 That heavenly shore,
Where sorrow, and parting, and death are no more:
 Our brother pursue,
 And fight our way through
 In the strength of our Lord,
Follow on, till we seize the eternal reward?
- 5 Through Jesus's name
 Our comrade o'ercame,
 And Jesus is ours,
And arms us with all his invincible pow'rs:
 He looks from the skies,
 He shows us the prize,
 And gives us a sign,
That *we* shall o'ercome by the mercy divine.
- 6 The Saviour of all
 For us he shall call,—
 Shall shortly appear,
Our day of eternal salvation is near.
 We too shall remove
 To our city above,
 On mortals look down,
Triumphant assessors of Jesus's throne.
- 7 For us is prepared
 Th' angelical guard,
 The convoy attends,
A minist'ring host of invisible friends;
 Ready winged for their flight
 To the regions of light
 The horses are come,
The chariot¹⁹ of Israel to carry *us* home.

¹⁹“Chariot” changed to “chariots” in 4th edn. (1765) and following.

8 They soon shall convey
 Our spirits away,
 Our spirits that groan
And cry for redemption, and long to be gone.
 By the cross we endure
 We shall make the crown sure,
 By a moment of pain
We all shall a joyful eternity gain.

Hymn 16.

1 Happy who in Jesus live,
 But happier still are they
 Who to God their spirits give,
 And 'scape from earth away:
Lord, thou read'st the panting heart,
 Lord, thou hear'st the praying sigh:
O 'tis better to depart,
 'Tis better far to die!

2 Yet if so thy will ordain,
 For our companion's good,
Let us in the flesh remain,
 And meekly bear the load:
When we have our grief filled up,
 When we all our work have done,
Late partakers of our hope,
 And sharers of thy throne.

3 To thy wise and gracious will
 We quietly submit,
Waiting for redemption still,
 But waiting at thy feet:
When thou wilt the blessing give,
 Call us up thy face to see,
Only let thy servants live,
 And let us die to thee.