Hebrews, Chapters 12-13

Reflections, prayers, scripture, and recorded new hymns for public worship and personal devotions

from the series:
Fresh Views of
Timeless Truths

Ken Bible

LNWhymns.COM

Copyright © 2020 by Ken Bible, LNW@LNWhymns.com

Scripture quotations marked (NASB) are from the *New American Standard Bible*® (NASB), © copyright The Lockman Foundation 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995. Used by permission.

Scripture quotations marked (NIV) are from the *Holy Bible, New International Version*® (NIV®). Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica. All rights reserved worldwide. Used by permission.

For more hymns by Ken Bible, visit **LNWhymns.com**

For more in the "Fresh Views of Timeless Truth" series, as well as free books, and to subscribe to Ken's free blog,

Nurturing Your Creativity & Your Life in Christ, visit

KenBible.com

Contents

Scripture, Reflections, Prayers, and *Hymns*

Hebrews 12:1	4
Run with Endurance	5
Keep Your Eyes on the Prize	7
Hebrews 12:1-3	8
Fix Your Eyes on Jesus	9
We Fix Our Eyes on Jesus Christ	11
Hebrews 12:4-11	12
Our Father's Discipline	13
The Father's Gifts	15
Hebrews 12:12-17	17
Persevere!	18
Keep Us Strong in Faith	20
Hebrews 12:18-24	21
Then and Now	22
All One in Christ	24
Hebrews 12:25-29	26
The Unshakable Kingdom	27
Make All Things New	29
Hebrews 13:1-6	30
Guard Your Desires	31
Help Me to Love Only You	33
Hebrews 13:7-14	35
This Is the One We Follow	36
Christ Crucified	37
Hebrews 13:15-25	39
How Can I Thank You?	40
Our Destiny Is Jesus Christ	41

Hebrews 12:1

(NIV)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us

Run with Endurance

Hebrews 12:1; Acts 20:24; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; 2 Timothy 2:3-6; 4:7-8

Picture a stadium. We living believers are the athletes, in the midst of a long and grueling race. At times we glance up and all around us. Who fills the stands in this immense stadium? It is the witness of all the heroes of the faith listed in Hebrews 11...plus so many more.

Are all those believers who have left this world actually watching us now? We don't know. Their witness is what's in view in Hebrews 12. Their example encourages us and urges us on. If they could speak to us right now, what would they say? Or to phrase it another way, what is their example shouting to us?

"God is always, always, ALWAYS faithful!"

"Just keep trusting Him!"

"The hardship lasts only a short time. It will soon be over. Hold steady!"

"Your obedience and faithfulness will bear fruit far beyond what you can imagine!"

"Rejoice!"

"Don't let anything hinder you!"

That last statement is what the scripture emphasizes here: let nothing hinder you...absolutely nothing! This is a long and demanding race. Top marathon runners ruthlessly shed anything that will weigh them down. They get rid of everything that will hold them back in any way. Their clothing, their own body weight, their diet, their daily habits—every aspect of their lives is examined in detail. Anything that's a hindrance, even to the slightest degree, must go.

Consider this: even the marathon is short in comparison to life. The struggles of life are so much greater, and its stakes are infinitely higher. Our rewards are deeper, richer, and forever. If a marathon runner must exercise such self-discipline and ruthlessly shed all hindrances, how much more should we who are racing for our eternal destiny?

I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it. Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. (1 Corinthians 9:23-25, NASB)

Honestly examine your life for anything that hinders your race. What about that *small* sin? What about that *small* distraction that eats into your time, energy, or devotion? Ask a marathon runner if there are any *small* irritants or *small* encumbrances. By the end of a long run, they all loom large. Shed them now! God will be glad to help you.

Then you will be prepared to *run with endurance the race* that is set before you.

Father, help me lay aside everything that is weighing me down and holding me back.
Everything, Lord.
Every habit,
every false and fuzzy way of thinking, every misplaced priority,
every laziness.
Fix my eyes on Jesus—
His life,
His holiness,
His complete devotion to You.

Hymn recording: Keep Your Eyes on the Prize

Keep Your Eyes on the Prize

TUNE: Keep Your Eyes on the Prize (HOLD ON)

Matthew 16:24; Galatians 6:9; Philippians 3:12-14; Hebrews 12:1-3



WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible and Traditional; arr. by Ken Bible

HOLD ON Irregular

Hebrews 12:1-3

(NIV)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Fix Your Eyes on Jesus

Hebrews 12:1-3

Once a runner has laid aside everything that would hinder or distract him, he keeps all his attention fixed on the goal toward which he is racing. For us, it is crucial that we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus Christ. Why?

- 1. He is the author of our faith. He is its originator, founder, and leader. Since the very beginning, He has been the Word of God God's creative, all-powerful, sovereign Word. Through Him, God brings to reality all that He has planned. Thus we put our faith in Jesus Christ and all God has done through Him.
- 2. Jesus is also the perfecter of our faith. All that He was in His earthly ministry, He was by faith in His Father. Jesus modeled total dependence and constant trust. In Him we see the beauty of a complete and unbroken relationship with the Father. In Him we see perfect faith.
- 3. Jesus endured the cross because of *the joy set before Him*. He obeyed, not out of obligation, but out of *joy*. What motivated Him was the joy of oneness with His Father, and the joy of sharing that oneness with us.
- 4. Jesus despised the shame of the cross. The cross was, first and foremost, an instrument of shame. It was designed to expose the crucified one to maximum humiliation. That's why crucifixions were staged at the most public and heavily-traveled places. By law, Roman citizens could not be crucified. It would be unfitting to disgrace any Roman citizen that way. But realize that when our text says that Jesus despised the shame, it doesn't mean that He hated it. It means that Jesus disregarded the shame. He counted it as nothing, as insignificant, unworthy of consideration, in light of the great joy that would grow from it.
- This One who endured the maximum suffering and the maximum humiliation is now enjoying the maximum exaltation. He has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

As you face the struggles of faith, fix your eyes on Jesus. As you endure unjust suffering, look to Him. The author and perfecter of our faith endured far more than we will ever experience. He endured it all out of joy. He is now at the right hand of God, and we who endure to the end will join Him there.

Don't grow weary in the race of faith. Don't lose heart. Keep your eyes on Jesus.

Jesus modeled this definition of sacrifice: to turn loose of something good in order to grasp something greater.

That is the sacrifice to which our Lord is calling us.

Hymn recording: We Fix Our Eyes on Jesus Christ

We Fix Our Eyes on Jesus Christ



WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: Traditional Folk Tune and Ken Bible
C.M.D.

Alt. Tune: ELLACOMBE Copyright © 2007 by LNWhymns.com (ASCAP). All rights reserved.

Administered by Music Services.

CCLI Song #4911496. For CCLI information call 1-800-234-2446.

Hebrews 12:4-11

(NASB)

You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin; and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons,

"My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,

Nor faint when you are reproved by Him;

For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines,

And He scourges every son whom He receives."

It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness.

All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

Our Father's Discipline

Hebrews 12:4-11

```
Father,
help me to receive Your gifts
      gladly and
      gratefully,
even though they come through
      hardship.
Help me to receive
      Your teaching,
      Your shaping,
      Your discipline,
even when they involve
      pain and
      struggle.
Compassionate Father,
You never send
      evil
into our lives.
And everything You allow to come to us You
      always,
      always,
      always,
use for our good (Romans 8:28).
You are making us more like
      Your glorious Son,
      Jesus Christ.
You are eternally blessing us with
      the riches of
      being -
of being completely and
      forever
like You and
one with You and
in You,
      Father,
      Son, and
      Spirit.
```

You are the perfect Father.
You faithfully train Your dear children

```
through both
word and
experience,
both pleasant and
unpleasant.

Your discipline is
all-wise and
all-loving.

You withhold nothing that
Your burning love
longs to give.
```

Father, I am Yours.
I love You!
I trust You!
In You I can truly
Rejoice ALWAYS
and

in EVERYTHING give thanks (1 Thessalonians 5:16, 18, NASB).

Do not complain when your loving Father allows your faith to be tested. He is strengthening your essential, life-giving connection with Him.

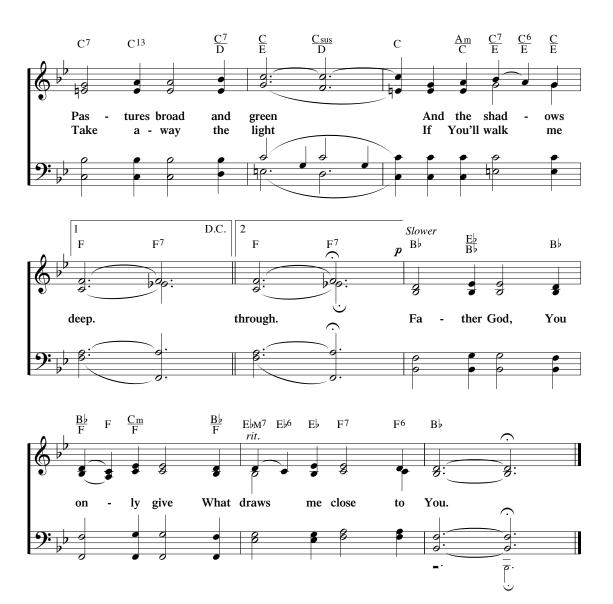
Hymn recording: The Father's Gifts

The Father's Gifts

Psalm 23; 25:10; Romans 8:28



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Jacques Offenbach and Ken Bible BARCAROLLE 7.6.7.6.5.5.5.5.



Hebrews 12:12-17

(NIV)

Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. "Make level paths for your feet," so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son. Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. Even though he sought the blessing with tears, he could not change what he had done.

Persevere!

Hebrews 12:12-17

```
People of God,
      persevere.
Persevere in
      living as His children.
Persevere in
      trusting Him,
      following Him,
      serving Him.
Persevere through
      every temptation,
      every threat,
      every distraction,
      every discouragement.
Stay together.
Trust God together.
Love each other.
Strengthen and support
      the weakest among you.
Stay on the good ground,
      the level ground,
      the right way
so that you don't stumble.
As far as it depends on you,
       pursue peace in every relationship,
      even with those who mistreat you.
Do not let
      bitterness,
      anger, or
      selfish resentment
spring up in you or
      among you.
It will do nothing but corrupt you.
Uproot it as soon as it appears.
Do not give into
      empty fears or
      shallow comforts.
Do not trade away what is
      infinitely,
```

eternally precious.

```
Persevere!
Live bravely,
boldly,
confidently.
You are the
loved,
secure,
blessed
people of the
Living God!
```

Hymn recording: Keep Us Strong in Faith

Keep Us Strong in Faith



WORDS and MUSIC: Ken Bible

CARING AND SHARING 5.5.5.4.5.5.7.

Copyright © 2001 by LNWhymns.com (ASCAP). All rights reserved.

Administered by Music Services.
CCLI Song #3550573. For CCLI information call 1-800-234-2446.

Hebrews 12:18-24

(NASB)

For you have not come to a mountain that can be touched and to a blazing fire, and to darkness and gloom and whirlwind, and to the blast of a trumpet and the sound of words which sound was such that those who heard begged that no further word be spoken to them. For they could not bear the command, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it will be stoned." And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, "I am full of fear and trembling."

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.

Then and Now

Hebrews 12:18-24; Exodus 19

Look back. Remember. This was your relationship with God before He redeemed you in Jesus Christ. His holiness was fiery and fearsome. His power, terrifying. His presence, threatening and deadly. Realize where He has brought you right now. You are among His people, His dear children. You stand in His personal presence with all the saints of all the ages. His holiness is beautifully transforming, shining out through all you are. His power is comforting and deeply assuring. His presence is peaceful, life-giving, and immensely joyful! Never go back! Never! Press forward in Him, one step of faith at a time. No matter how difficult the road seems to be right now,

God is within you,

God is beside you, God is above you, and God is before you. Trust Him. Rest in Him. Walk with Him.

Your present and future are wonderful in Jesus Christ!

Hymn recording: All One in Christ

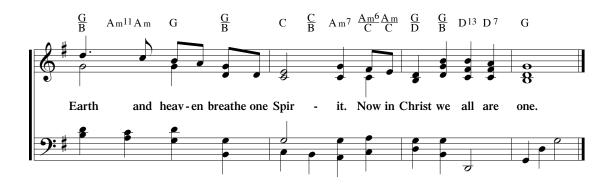
All One in Christ

TUNE: He the Pearly Gates Will Open (PEARLY GATES, alt.) *Matthew 12:46-50; Mark 3:31-35; Luke 8:19-21; John 17:20-21; Ephesians 1:9-10; 2:1-22; Hebrews 2:11; Revelation 5:11-14*



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Alfred Olsen Duhlin (b.1894) and Ken Bible

PEARLY GATES 2 8.7.8.7.w.Ref.



Hebrews 12:25-29

(NASB)

See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. For if those did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, [a]much less will we escape who turn away from Him who warns from heaven.

And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth, but also the heaven."

This expression, "Yet once more," denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire.

The Unshakable Kingdom

Hebrews 12:25-29

O Father, what a marvelous present and what a glorious future You have for all those who trust You!

Help us not to drift back into darkness, into unbelief, into a tiny life focused on ourselves.

For the Day of the Lord is coming.

When You came down to us on Mt. Sinai,
the earth shook with the power of Your presence.

Soon, just one more time
You will shake
all heaven and earth.

Everything temporary,
everything that is not
infused with You
will be shaken away
completely and

Your Unshakable Kingdom will remain.
O Father, we want to be part of that Kingdom – one with You,
one with all Your beautiful saints of all times and places.

Creation will be all new, an Eden of Edens.

forever.

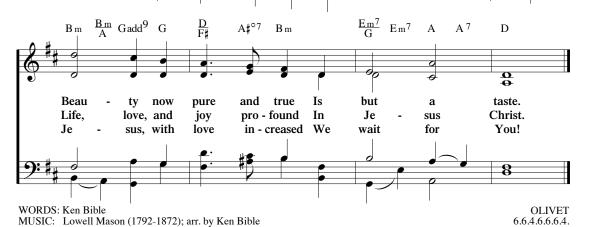
All You have made will rejoice in You forever and ever.

Father, gracious Father,
we trust You.
We love You.
Now and evermore our one desire will be to
glorify
You!

Hymn recording: Make All Things New

Make All Things New

TUNE: My Faith Looks Up to Thee (OLIVET) Isaiah 24; 25; 26; 65:17-25; 66:18-23; Mark 13:26-27, 32-37; Luke 13:29; 1 Corinthians 15:53-57; Revelation 21:1-5; 22:1-5 = 84 D $A\quad A^{\,7}\quad B_{\,m}$ D sus Εm life's E 1. Lord God, on ly source, vil will 2. Death is bru tal lord, Wield ing its 3. Fin ish Your gift be - gun. Gath er us $\frac{B\,m}{A}$ $\frac{D\,sus}{G}$ A 7 Em^7 B mLeave earth a Love will make run its course, waste. sov - 'reign sword. Soon death will die. Life will a all things all one. Make new! Je sus, our 0 $\frac{\mathbf{D}}{\mathbf{A}}$ D Bm^7 D all things new. Worlds will flow fresh from You. Life a - round, rise, un - bound, burst - ing all our Priest, Je Your self the feast, Lamb, sus,



Copyright © 2019 by LNWhymns.com (ASCAP). All rights reserved. Administered by Music Services.

CCLI Song #7127407. For CCLI information call 1-800-234-2446.

Hebrews 13:1-6

(NIV)

Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters.

Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,

"Never will I leave you;

never will I forsake you."

So we say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.

What can mere mortals do to me?"

Guard Your Desires

Hebrews 13:1-6

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. (Proverbs 4:23, NIV)

Friends.

brothers and sisters in Christ, guard your heart.
Guard your desires.
Keep your love focused on what is most important.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. (Deuteronomy 6:5, NASB)

And out of your all-consuming love for God,

love each other.

Love actively,

in practical ways.

Love more and more!

Nurture your fellowship.

Care for each other's needs,

especially the needs of God's servants.

Spouses, diligently maintain the bond of love between you, and remain faithful to each other in every way.

Flee from love of money.

It is deceitful.

distracting, and destructive.

Be content with what God

graciously provides.

He is the Source of everything good, and

He joyfully provides for the needs of His creatures.

He is with you always.

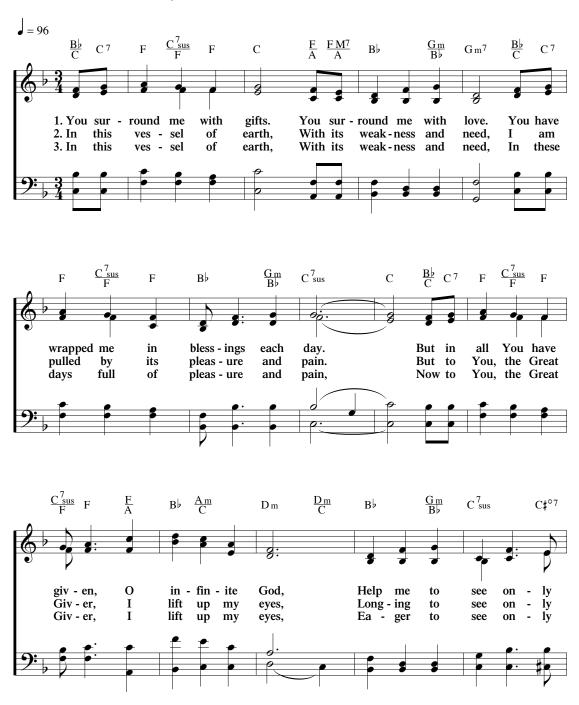
What else do you need?

Find your satisfaction in Him.

Hymn recording: Help Me to Love Only You

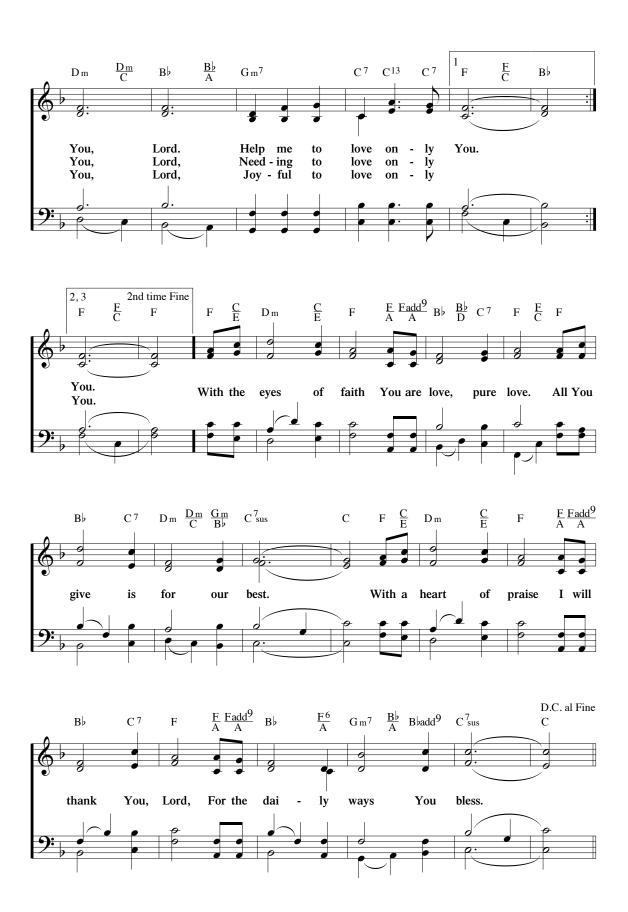
Help Me to Love Only You

Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Psalm 25:10; 2 Corinthians 11:2-3; 1 John 4:16



WORDS: & MUSIC: Ken Bible

GREATEST COMMANDMENT 6.6.9.12.8.7.w.Bridge



Hebrews 13:7-14

(NIV)

Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace, not by eating ceremonial foods, which is of no benefit to those who do so. We have an altar from which those who minister at the tabernacle have no right to eat.

The high priest carries the blood of animals into the Most Holy Place as a sin offering, but the bodies are burned outside the camp. And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood. Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore. For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.

This Is the One We Follow

Hebrews 13:7-14

```
See Him as He truly was:
      the blood,
      the nakedness,
      the pain wrenching His body.
See Him humbled,
      repulsive,
      dying,
      abandoned.
This is your God.
This is His passionate love.
This is our Leader,
      our Shepherd,
      the One we imitate.
This is our goal,
      our ambition,
      our Way,
      our Truth,
      our Life.
This is the standard that guides
      every day and
      every decision.
This is the way we deny ourselves.
This is the cross we carry.
This is the One we follow.
```

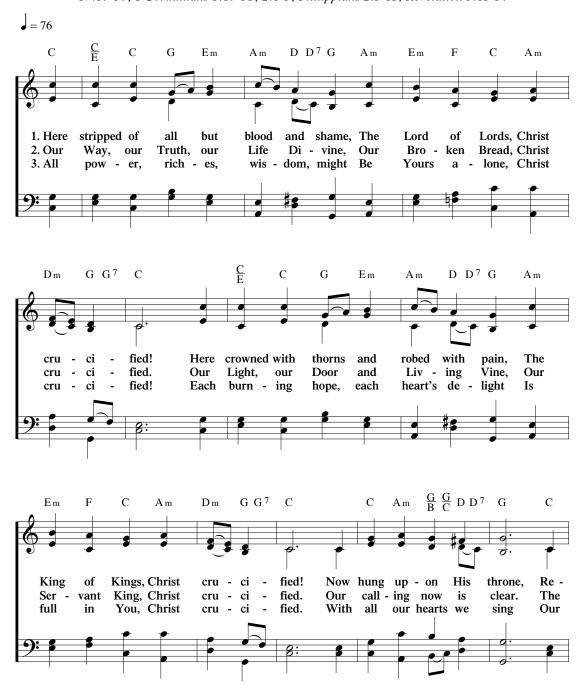
Look at Jesus hanging on the cross.

Hymn recording: Christ Crucified

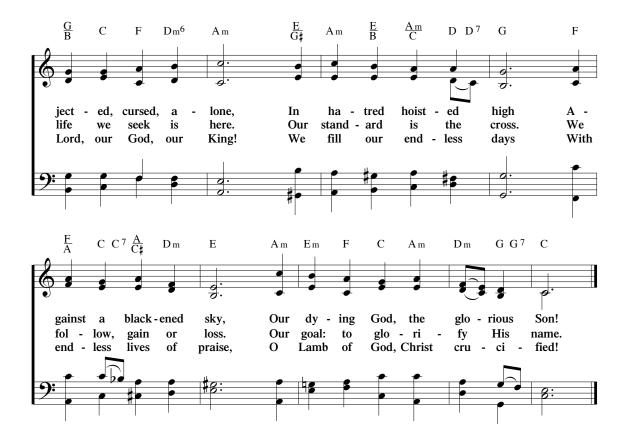
Christ Crucified

TUNE: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (EIN' FESTE BURG, alt.)

Matthew 16:24; 27:27-50; Mark 8:34; 15:16-37; Luke 9:23; 23:26-46; John 14:6; 19:17-30; 1 Corinthians 1:17-31; 2:1-5; Philippians 2:5-11; Revelation 5:11-14



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Martin Luther; adapted by Ken Bible EIN' FESTE BURG 2 8.8.8.6.6.6.6.8.



Hebrews 13:15-25

(NASB)

Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that [a]give thanks to His name. And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a good conscience, desiring to conduct ourselves honorably in all things. And I urge you all the more to do this, so that I may be restored to you the sooner.

Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

But I urge you, brethren, bear with this word of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly. Take notice that our brother Timothy has been released, with whom, if he comes soon, I will see you. Greet all of your leaders and all the saints. Those from Italy greet you.

Grace be with you all.

How Can I Thank You?

Hebrews 13:15-25

```
Father, how can I express my gratitude for all You have done for me in Christ?

A new heart,
a new life,
a new love,
a new destiny!
```

Since Your Son was the full and final sacrifice, animal sacrifices are no longer appropriate. How can I thank You?

I can make my life a continual sacrifice of praise.

My words,
my attitudes,
my active love for Your children,
my submission to You and
to Your leaders,
my prayers —
all these can sing of
my thankfulness,
my love, and
my joy in You!

Your resurrection power is already at work for me and in me.
You graciously give me the desire and the strength to do everything that pleases You.
Everything!

All praise and glory to You, Magnificent God! I am Yours!

Hymn recording: Our Destiny Is Jesus Christ

Our Destiny Is Jesus Christ

= 96 <u>F</u> C N.C. F F 1. Our des - ti - ny is Je - sus Christ, Our heav - en com -2. Our 3. Our Je - sus Je - sus Great High Priest is Christ. Our un - ion is com va - tion sac - ri - fice is Christ. Sal is com 4. Our ho - li - ness Christ. For giv - en, cleansed, and sus $\frac{F_{sus}}{G}$ Dm C Gm B C N.C. D_{m} Gm \mathbf{C} C^7 plete, broad and bright hor i - zon of What life in God will plete: Al - might - y God Is now The full - ness of hu - man - i plete. freed, guilt has bought Our suf - f'ring for our rich e - ter - ni -We breathe the ho - ly breath of God In thought and word and 1,3 D.C. 2,4 Gm Bb F N.C. be! ty. deed. All praise, all Fa-ther, Spir - it, praise, Ho-ly ty. $F = \frac{Gm}{Bb}$ F C F C C $\frac{Gm}{B}$ C^7 N.C. all Son! All praise, praise, God has come, and we are

NIGHTMUSIC

C.M.w.Ref.

WORDS: Ken Bible

MUSIC: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Ken Bible