

LIKE GRACE THAT RUNS AHEAD OF US

“..but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts...”

Eph. 5:18b-20

“When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.”Mt.26:30

Like grace that runs ahead of us
before we are aware,
God’s gift of music waits for us
in days of joy or care.
Surprising us with gentle sounds
or boldly marching on,
this gift refreshes weary lives
like dew upon the lawn.

With psalms and hymns and Spirit-songs
God’s church has offered praise.
They strengthen wounded hearts and minds
for living painful days.
They give us words to thank the Lord,
they stir our serving acts,
provide a quiet path to pray,
speak *love* when hate attacks.

But many songs are touched by God,
not only Sunday’s praise.
For like the sun, good week-day songs
can brighten common days.
When hummed or sung they rescue life
from boredom or despair,
unite, and lift up anyone--
God’s love comes unaware.

God’s gift sustained our Lord that night,
for in the upper room
He sang with friends the final hymn,
before the cross and tomb.
But soon a hymn of life renewed
would fill the Easter sky,
and joyous, offer hope again:
“God’s song will never die!”

Words: R. Frederick Crider, Jr. ©2008 All Rights Reserved Eph.5:18b-20; Mt. 26:30
Music: Trad.English melody:arr. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906 Forest Green CMD
(see tune for:” I Sing the Almighty Power of God”#152 UMH)