

Standing at the Portal

Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879 (1873)

HERMAS 6.5.6.5. D.
Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879 (1871)

1. Stand - ing at the por - tal Of the o - pening year,
 2. "I the Lord am with thee. Be thou not a - fraid!
 3. He will nev - er fail us, He will not for - sake,

Words of com - fort meet us, Hush - ing ev - ery fear;
 I will help and strength - en; Be thou not dis - mayed!
 His e - ter - nal cov - enant He will nev - er break;

Spo - ken through the si - lence By our Fa - ther's voice,
 Yea, I will up - hold thee With My own right hand;
 Rest - ing on His prom - ise, What have we to fear?

Ten - der, strong, and faith - ful, Mak - ing us re - joice.
 Thou art called and cho - sen In My sight to stand."
 God is all - suf - fi - cient For the com - ing year! A - MEN.

LITURGY FOR THE NEW YEAR

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all God's benefits,

Who forgives your iniquity, who heals your diseases,

Who satisfies you with good as long as you live, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**HYMN (461) O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home!**

**Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.**

**O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Remain our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. (Congregation Seated)

Let us in penitence and humility confess our sins before the throne of grace, praying together:

God of mercy, as we mark this moment, we confess our weaknesses, failures, and transgressions:

Our broken vows,

Our slackness and misuse of time and opportunity,

Our selfishness and our love of ease,

Our unkindness and indifference,

***Our self-indulgence and our pleasures taken at the
expense of others,***

Our moments when we have not been true to ourselves,

Our lack of faith in your providence.

For these sins of commission and omission, have mercy upon us.

Lord Jesus Christ, we remember in your presence our losses and griefs, our hopes and treasures which the departing year has carried away, the disappointments we have known, the friends who are no longer with us and whose steps we shall hear no more. Betty Mae Thorp Overbeck, Clara Horvath, John Carver Turner, Katharine Whiteman Oneson. We pray for grace to cherish the spirit which brings good out of evil, and which prevents adversities and sorrows from embittering our hearts. Give us comfort and a deep sense of your goodness in every circumstance of life; and when, despite our good intentions, we fail, be our strength and stay.

**HYMN (783) Amazing Grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now am found was blind, but now I see.**

**The Lord has promised good to me his word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.**

**Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far and grace will lead me home.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise then when we'd first begun.**

Lord Jesus, you are the same yesterday, today, and forever: your throne is established in righteousness, your compassion fails not, and your love endures from generation to generation. Lift the light of your countenance upon us, for we are exiles as our ancestors were. We thank you for all the ways by which you have led us in the past. Give us courage to set our faces toward the future.

Amen.

Let us give thanks for all God's mercies.
For your grace given to us in days that are gone,
For the blessings of life, seen and unseen,
For the joy and peace of communion with you,
We give you thanks, gracious God.

For the sacraments of love and service,
For the deeds we have been able to accomplish in the strength which you supply,
For the kindness of associates, the love of friends, and the fellowship of kindred souls,
We give you thanks, loving God.

For the disciplines which have enriched our living,
For your wisdom and gracious providence which we have recognized when you have denied our foolish requests,
For the faith which has guided us in days of trial,
We give you thanks, gracious God.

(Congregation Standing)

God will supply every need of ours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.
To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

**HYMN (147) Lord, you have been our dwelling place in every generation.
Your people still have known your grace and your blest consolation.
Through every age you heard our cry,
Through every age we found you nigh,
Our strength and our salvation.**

**Lord, nothing from your arms of love shall your own people sever.
Our helper never will remove; our God will fail us never.
Your people, Lord, have dwelt secure;
Our dwelling place, you will endure
Forever and forever.**