

Now Let Us Come Before Him

Nun laßt uns gehn und treten
Paul Gerhardt, 1653
Tr. John Kelly, 1867, alt.

8.8. 8.8.

Nun lasst uns Gott, dem Herren
Nikolaus Selnecker, 1587
Arr. Johann Crüger, alt.

Now let us come be - fore Him,

With song and prayer a - dore Him,

Who to our life hath giv - en

All need - ed strength from heav - en.

2 The stream of years is flowing,
And we are onward going,
From old to new surviving
And by His mercy thriving.

3 In woe we often languish
And pass through times of anguish
Of wars and trepidation
Alarming ev'ry nation.

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| 4 As mothers watch are keeping
O'er children who are sleeping,
Their fear and grief assuaging,
When angry storms are raging, | 9 To all who bow before Thee
And for Thy grace implore Thee,
Oh, grant Thy benediction
And patience in affliction. |
| 5 So God His own is shielding
And help to them is yielding.
When need and woe distress them,
His loving arms caress them. | 10 With richest blessings crown us,
In all our ways, Lord, own us;
Give grace, who grace bestowest
To all, e'en to the lowest. |
| 6 O Thou who dost not slumber,
Remove what would encumber
Our work, which prospers never
Unless Thou bless it ever. | 11 Be Thou a Helper speedy
To all the poor and needy,
To all forlorn a Father;
Thine erring children gather. |
| 7 Our song to Thee ascendeth,
Whose mercy never endeth;
Our thanks to Thee we render,
Who art our strong Defender. | 12 Be with the sick and ailing,
Their Comforter unfailing;
Dispelling grief and sadness,
Oh, give them joy and gladness! |
| 8 O God of mercy, hear us;
Our Father, be Thou near us;
Mid crosses and in sadness
Be Thou our Fount of gladness. | 13 Above all else, Lord, send us
Thy Spirit to attend us,
Within our hearts abiding,
To heav'n our footsteps guiding. |
- 14 All this Thy hand bestoweth,
Thou Life, whence our life floweth.
To all Thy name confessing
Grant, Lord, Thy New Year's blessing!

Paul Gerhardt's hymn for the New Year, "Now Let Us Come Before Him" ("*Nun laßt uns gehn und treten*"), together with many of his most well-known hymns, first appeared in Johann Crüger's popular hymnal *Praxis Pietatis Melica*, Berlin, 1653. The tune is that composed in 1588 by Nikolaus Selnecker for the after-meal hymn "Now Let Us to the Lord God" ("*Nun laßt uns Gott, dem Herren*"). Given the identical openings for both hymns, one is given to believe that Gerhard wrote his text with Selnecker's tune in mind.

Gerhardt's text appeared in an altered form of John Kelly's translation in *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941, No. 122, with two stanzas omitted. For the Free Lutheran Chorale-Book, the omitted stanzas have been supplied from the *Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book*, 1930, No. 174. The setting of the melody in those hymnals was based on that by Selnecker. By the time Gerhardt wrote his hymn, the melody had been slightly modified. For the Free Lutheran Chorale-Book, the melody and setting as they appear in Crüger's hymnal have been used. Both text and music are in the public domain and may be freely used and reproduced for any purpose whatever. They are offered with the prayer that they may serve for the edification of Christian people everywhere. For more information, visit the Free Lutheran Chorale-Book at:

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The Free Lutheran Chorale-Book

presents

Now Let Us Come Before Him

written for the New Year by

Paul Gerhardt

and translated by

John Kelly

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