Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

One thing I ask of the Lord; this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD. Ps. 27:4

1. Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there, where my soul in joyful duty waits for him who answers prayer.

2. Lord, my God, I come before thee; come thou also unto me; where we find thee and adore thee, there a heav’n on earth must be.

3. Here thy praise is gladly chant-ed, here thy seed is duly sown; let my soul, where it is planted, bring forth precious sheaves alone.

4. Thou my faith increase and quick-en, let me keep thy gift divine; how ’er temptations thicken; may thy Word still o’er me shine.

5. Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done indeed; may I undisturbed draw near thee while thou dost thy people feed.

Oh, how blessed is this place, filled with solace, light, and grace! To my heart, O enter thou, let it be thy temple now!

So that all I hear may be fruitful unto life in me, as my guiding star through life, as my comfort in my strife.

Here of life the fountain flows, here is balm for all our woes.

Benjamin Schmelzle, 1732, cents
Tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt

NEANDER 8.7.8.7.7
Joachim Neander, 1680; alt. 1990
O for a Closer Walk with God

What does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Mic. 6:8

1. O for a closer walk with God, a calm and heav’n-ly frame,
2. Re-turn, O ho-ly Dove, re-turn, sweet mes-sen-ger of rest;
3. The dearest i-dol I have known, what-e’er that i-dol be,
4. So shall my walk be close with God, calm and se-rene my frame;

a light to shine up-on the road that leads me to the Lamb!
I hate the sins that made thee mourn, and drove thee from my breast.
help me to tear it from thy throne, and wor-ship on-ly thee.
so pur-er light shall mark the road that leads me to the Lamb.

William Cowper, 1779

BEATITUUDO C.M.
John B. Dæes, 1875