

Worship Resource

"You Hear the Hungry Crying"

- 1. You hear the hungry crying in many a bounteous land,
You see the hungry dying on barren desert sand;
You tell Your helpless helpers, "Go feed the multitude,"
and, while they serve the starving, You multiply the food.**
- 2. The hungry still are with us, though easily ignored,
and You still say, "Go feed them," and You are still the Lord.
Give us Your eyes to see them, Your ears to hear their cry.
Who, moved by Your compassion, could coldly pass them by?**
- 3. With You in us, Lord Jesus, we feel and act like You;
Your life of love and mercy impels our mission, too.
Through us pour out Your bounty, make us Your hands and feet;
in sharing what You give us, You make our joy complete.**
- 4. You see more than a body imploring to be fed,
You see whole persons famished for You, the living Bread.
In loving one another, we prove our love for You;
In caring for the needy, we say our thanks to You.**
- 5. Your fasting in the desert, Your thirsting on the cross,
reveal how much You love us, the found and all still lost.
As sure as You are risen, Your promises are true:
we'll live in heav'nly mansions and meet to feast with You.**

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Suggested Tunes
Metrical Tune - 7.6.6.6.D
ANTHES (Come Unto Me, Ye Weary), LW 345
AURELIA (The Church's One Foundation), LW 289



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Hymn Notes

In 1993, LCMS World Relief commissioned noted editor and hymnwriter Rev. Jaroslav Vajda to write a hymn for the annual LCMS World Relief Sunday. "You Hear the Hungry Crying" has been sung in the United States and around the world. Stanza 5 was written in 1999 to commemorate the 85th year of LCMS World Relief. Rev. Vajda's notes follow:

Being told that we will "always have the poor with us," the Christian must constantly be reminded of putting good intentions into practice and "not to grow weary in well-doing." As in a charitable work, the motivation is all-important. And this is supplied by the example of our Lord, the choice of that title being deliberately chosen. It is through the Word, the Son of God, that all things were created (John 1). He is the ultimate Provider of life-giving food, and is Himself the Bread from heaven who feeds and sustains our eternal life. If He tells us to pour ourselves out for the hungry, and shows us how that is done, we know what we should do for our hungering neighbor and we will do it for the right reason. And when we do carry out this criterion of the Last Judgement, we will do so out of gratitude rather than for Phari-sa-ic credit. (Notes on stanzas 1-4 from the hymnwriter)

The problem of hunger and homelessness was shared by our Substitute Jesus Christ, and dealt with by His revelation of His mission: to offer temporary relief of the temporal problem via His charitable followers, while at the same time offering the Bread of Life providing everlasting hunger-free life. The resurrection guarantees the fulfillment of His promise and confirms the validity of His method of dealing with the everpresent cries of the hungry. (Notes on anniversary stanza 5 from the hymnwriter)

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