



Unwrapping the

Gifts

A Wedding Hymn

Brief Introduction by the Rev. Paul Becker

Since my infrequent attempts at hymn writing always begin with a specific melody in mind, I wanted to begin with a fresh, new tune that appealed to young and old alike. K. Lee Scott's SHADES MOUNTAIN (LSB 950) fit the bill perfectly. I mostly wanted to express my Christian hope, as hymnwriter Martin Franzmann wrote decades ago, "That in these grey and latter days there may be those whose life is praise." This seemed particularly important in a culture that mocks and despises God's design and purposes for holy marriage. The hymn is offered with the prayer that we may rightly encourage our young people to confidently enter this God-ordained and blessed lifelong union of one man and one woman with faith, hope and love in Christ, our Savior.

To holy marriage come forgiven sinners
Seeking God's blessings, and His strength to follow
His way of kindness, giving and embracing
In Christ, our Savior.

To be her husband is his prayer and promise,
Serving, protecting, working for the family;
With sacrificial love he strives to keep her
In Christ, our Savior.

To be his dear wife is her dream and passion,
Always creating comfort, care and beauty;
Freely she offers him respect and honor
In Christ, our Savior.

By love surrounded, on a sure foundation,
Facing the future in the Word, together;
Welcoming children, sorrow, joy and gladness
In Christ, our Savior.

Praise to the Father, who in love invites us;
Praise to Christ Jesus, who in love redeems us;
Praise to the Spirit, Breath of love and freedom;
One God, forever.

SHADES MOUNTAIN 11 11 11 5 (*Lutheran Service Book* 950)

Text by Paul F. Becker, on the occasion of his daughter, Julie, entering holy marriage (2019).