

Hymn Texts for July 4, 2021

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

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 thy throne, Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is thine arm alone, And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting thou art God, To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Bears mortals all away;
They fly, forgotten, as a dream Dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Be thou our guide while life shall last, And our eternal home!

America the Beautiful

O beautiful for spacious skies, For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties Above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet Whose stern impassioned stress,
A thoroughfare for freedom beat Across the wilderness!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control, Thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for heroes proved In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country love And mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness, And every gain divine!

O beautiful for patriot dream That sees beyond the years,
Thine alabaster cities gleam Undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood From sea to shining sea!

Lord, Here Am I

1 Master, Thou callest, I gladly obey;
only direct me, and I'll find Thy way.
Teach me the mission appointed for me,
what is my labor, and where it shall be.

Refrain:

Master, Thou callest, and this I reply,
"Ready and willing, Lord, here am I."

2 Willing, my Savior, to take up the cross;
willing to suffer reproaches and loss.
Willing to follow, if Thou wilt but lead;
only support me with grace in my need. [Refrain]

3 Living, or dying, I still would be Thine;
yet I am mortal while Thou art divine.
Pardon, whenever I turn from the right;
pity, and bring me again to the light. [Refrain]

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

I have decided to follow Jesus; I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus; no turning back, no turning back.

Though none go with me, I still will follow; though none go with me, I still will follow;
though none go with me, I still will follow; no turning back, no turning back.

The cross I'll carry, till I see Jesus; The cross I'll carry, till I see Jesus;
The cross I'll carry, till I see Jesus; no turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me;
the world behind me, the cross before me,
the world behind me, the cross before me; no turning back, no turning back.

I Love to Tell the Story

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love.
I love to tell the story because I know 'tis true.
It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.
I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory.
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love.