



When Morning Gilds the Skies



**"When morning gilds the skies, my heart awakening cries,
'May Jesus Christ be praised!'
Alike at work and prayer, to Jesus I repair:
'May Jesus Christ be praised!'"**

**"Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find,
'May Jesus Christ be praised!'
Or fades my earthly bliss, my comfort still is this,
'May Jesus Christ be praised!'"**

**"Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine,
'May Jesus Christ be praised!'
Be this the eternal song through all the ages long,
'May Jesus Christ be praised!'"**

"In the morning, O Lord, You will hear my voice; in the morning I will order my prayer to You and eagerly watch." - Psalm 5:3

"The Lord's loving kindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness." - Lamentations 3:22-23

As we awoke this morning, it was the start of a new day and a new week. Whatever this day may hold, as unpredictable as that can be, we know that the Lord will be with us in it all. And so, we can "count it all joy when we fall into various trials," as we read in James 1:3, as we praise the One who will bring a new eternal perspective to our problems and value to our suffering.

In our morning prayer, we can thank God for new strength, energy, and motivation; new thoughts, ideas and possibilities; new blessings to come, and forgiveness for past sins that enables us to have a new start. Perhaps we may meet a new friend today, or connect with an old friend. Each day is a gift from "the Father of lights" (James 1:17) and is given for us to enjoy with renewed enthusiasm as we serve Him.

"When Morning Gilds the Skies" dates back possibly as early as 1744, but it took the work of several men to bring it to the hymn we sing today. Many of our favorite hymns required the work of a skillful translator who took a poetic creation written in one language and prepared a text to be sung in another.

Edward Caswall did just that in 1858 when he translated an old German text, which was later adapted by Robert Bridges and put to music by Joseph Barnby, an English choirmaster. The result was a wonderful hymn that has stood the test of time, based on five simple words: "May Jesus Christ Be Praised!"

Caswell begins his thoughts with the rising sun as it begins to shine its light on a weary world. Our first thoughts should be of our Creator who described Himself as "the Light of the world." In quiet times of prayer, or walking with Jesus during the activities of life, the Christian's mindset ought to be one of praise for who He is, and His presence with us in all the moments of our days.

In times of sadness, He is our solace. When our hearts are breaking, and our earthly bliss fading, He is our comfort still. Indeed, through all the number of our days, and the seasons of our lives, we can sing the "cantic divine" and the eternal song of praise to our Savior and heavenly Friend, with whom we will live forever in our new home in heaven. Until then, may we carry the title of today's hymn with us as our motto, ever singing in our hearts: "May Jesus Christ be praised!"

"I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth." - Psalm 34:1

"I will praise the name of God with song and magnify Him with thanksgiving." - Psalm 69:30

"Praise the Lord! Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His lovingkindness is everlasting." - Psalm 106:1

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord!" - Psalm 150:6