



Anthem: Lord, Make Us Worthy

Natalie Sleeth

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The mood Natalie Sleeth has created in the music of this anthem is gentle and peaceful. It reflects the grace and peace that the Gospel offers to “all who believe.” The voice parts smoothly move from singing in **unison** to a **countermelody** and then to a **call and response**, but the gentle mood remains throughout.

The text is a succinctly and beautifully written account of the experience and life of believers.

Sleeth has used a repetitive and seemingly simple pattern consisting of verbs followed by prepositional phrases in most lines of Stanzas 1 and 2. However, in these lines she has described in few words the profound stages of salvation which she calls the gifts to be received from God and His Son.

Note the shift in Stanza 3.

*How has the focus of the text changed in lines 1-3?

*What is the action in line 4? Who is doing it?

*There is a subtle change in the “All who...” line in Stanza 3. What is changed from Stanzas 1 and 2?

*There is action in line 7. What is it? Who is doing it?

In the last stanza, there is a return to the repetitive pattern of Stanzas 1 and 2; however, it seems to be a description of the believer’s life on the “other side” of the salvation experience.

*Identify the element(s) of the changed perspective.

Prayer: Lord, we have thankfully received Your life-changing gifts through Your grace and Your Son Jesus. We are of those who are led by the Spirit, claimed, filled, and called. Therefore, we are confident in using these words and our voices to proclaim our own believer’s experience to those who hear it. This is our service and an offering of honor and praise to You. Amen.

Anthem Text

Blessed by His coming,
Touched by His birth,
Graced by His glory,
Here on the earth.
Fed by His wisdom,
All who believe:
Lord, make us worthy such gifts to receive.

Spared by His mercy,
Healed by His skill,
Saved by His sorrow,
Bound by His will,
Raised by His power,
All who believe:
Lord make us worthy such gifts to receive.

Sent by the Father,
Humbly He came;
Master and Savior
Him we proclaim.
All who have found Him
Now as before,
Offer Him honor and praise evermore.

Led by His Spirit,
Claimed by His love,
Filled with His promise,
Word from above,
Called to His service,
All who believe:
Lord, make us worthy, each of us worthy,
Lord, make us worthy such blessings to receive.