

Brief Life Is Here Our Portion
By: St. Bernard of Cluny (12th century),
Translation by Rev. John Mason Neale (1818-1866)
From: Mediaeval Hymns, 1851
Tune: Crathie
Comp: Sir J. Frederick Bridge (1844-1924)

1) Brief life is here our portion,
Brief sorrow, short-lived care;
The life that knows no ending,
The tearless life, is there.
O happy retribution!
Short toil, eternal rest;
For mortals and for sinners,
A mansion with the blest!

2) That we should look, poor wanderers,
To have our home on high!
That worms should seek for dwellings
Beyond the starry sky!
And now we fight the battle,
But then shall wear the crown
Of full and everlasting
And passionless renown.

3) And now we watch and struggle,
And now we live in hope,
And Zion in her anguish
With Babylon must cope;
But He Whom now we trust in
Shall then be seen and known,
And they that know and see Him
Shall have Him for their own.

4) O sweet and blest country,
The home of God's elect!
O sweet and blest country,
That eager hearts expect!
Jesu, in mercy bring us
To that dear land of rest,
Who art, with God the Father
And Spirit, ever blest. Amen.