

# By gentle Powers wonderfully sheltered

An impulse after "Praise the Lord, all ye who honour Him"

*Lyrics: Dietrich Bonhoeffer 1944*

*Music: Eckhard Becker 2024*

1. By gent - le Po - wers faith - ful - ly sur - roun - ded, pro -  
 2. our hearts are tor - tured e - ven now by e - vil days, the

5 tec - ted wond - rous - ly, con - soled by grace, -  
 bur - dens of the past are hard to bear,

9 that's live these days to - ge - ther,  
 Oh how Lord, grant ou - to sacred souls the sal - va - tion,

13 close to start the co - ming year;  
 there - fore your side, have cre a - ted us and saved.

17

3. And if You pass the  
4. But if You will grant  
heav - y cup of suf - fe - ring, the  
us once more the joy, to see this

21

bit - ter cha - lice, filled to the high - est brim,  
world, the splen - dor of its bea - ming sun,

25

then we will take it, grate - ful with - out tremb - ling  
the we will sure - ly all the past re - mem - ber

29

out of Your good and so be - lo - ved hand.  
and ou - r whole lives will be - Yours a - lone.

*On the Wednesday before Easter, the melody of the chorale "Praise the Lord" by Paul Gerhardt came to mind when I thought again of the hymn "By gentle Powers". Was it this melody and thoughts that accompanied Dietrich Bonhoeffer in those days? Praising God is given to us as a task - it is precisely in the times when we don't feel like it that it unfolds its greatest power! "Praise the Lord, all who honor him; let us sing His name with joy and bring praise and thanksgiving to His altar." That's the first stanza of the chorale I mentioned. Praise the Lord!*

33

5. Let warm and bright the cand - les flames light up to - day, which  
 6. When now the si - lence spreads a - round, help us to hear and  
 7. By gent - le Po - wers won - der - ful - ly shel - tered, a -

37

You have brought in ou - r gloo - my times, sound  
 lis - ten - ting to fear - in the full em - bra - cing sound  
 wai - - - less - ly what there will be.

41

lead us to - ge - ther back a - gain if that can be!  
 of this world, which un - - seen a - round is wi - de - ning  
 God, he is near at dusk and in the mor - ning

45

We know for Your sure, Your light shines through the night.  
 to all Your child - - - - - high - est hymns of praise.  
 and with us cer - - - - - tain ly on each new day.