

# Hymn Lyrics

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## What thanks and praise to thee we owe

What thanks and praise to thee we owe,  
O Priest and Sacrifice divine,  
for thy dear saint through whom we know  
so many a gracious word of thine.

Whom thou didst choose to tell the tale  
of all thy manhood's toils and tears,  
and for a moment lift the veil  
that hides thy boyhood's spotless years.

How many a soul with guilt oppressed  
has learned to hear the joyful sound  
in that sweet tale of sin confessed,  
the father's love, the lost and found!

What countless worshipers have sung,  
in lowly fane or lofty choir,  
the song that loosed the silent tongue  
of him who was the Baptist's sire!

And still the Church through all her days  
uplifts the strains that never cease,  
the blessed Virgin's hymn of praise,  
the aged Simeon's words of peace.

O happy saint! whose sacred page,  
so rich in words of truth and love,  
pours on the Church from age to age  
this healing unction from above.

The witness of the Savior's life,  
the great apostle's chosen friend  
through weary years of toil and strife,  
and still found faithful to the end.

So grant us, Lord, like him to live,  
beloved by man, approved by thee,  
till thou at last the summons give,  
and we, with him, thy face shall see.