

Eternal Father Strong To Save

John B. Dykes

Whiting
1860

TER - NAL PA - THER, STRONG TO SAVE. WHOSE
 ARM DOTH BIND THE RESTLESS WAVE WHO BIDD'ST
 THE MIGHTY OCEAN DEEP ITS OWN APPOINTED
 LIMITS KEEP O. HEAR US WHEN WE CRY TO THEE
 FOR THOSE IN PERIL ON THE SEA.

2. O SAVIOUR, WHOSE ALMIGHTY WORD
 THE WINDS AND WAVES SUBMISSIVE HEARD,
 WHO WALKEDST ON THE FOAMING DEEP
 AND, CALM AMID ITS RAGE, DIDST SLEEP,
 O HEAR US WHEN WE CRY TO THEE
 FOR THOSE IN PERIL ON THE SEA.

3. O SACRED SPIRIT, WHO DIDST BROOD
 UPON THE CHAOS DARK AND RUDE,
 WHO BID'ST ITS ANGRY TUMULT CEASE,
 AND GAVEST LIGHT AND LIFE AND PEACE;
 O HEAR US WHEN WE CRY TO THEE
 FOR THOSE IN PERIL ON THE SEA.

4. O TRINITY DEITY, WHOSE POWER
 OUR FATHERS SHIELDS IN DANGER'S HOUR,
 FROM HELL AND TEMPEST, THEE BY US
 PROTECT THEM WHERESOEVER THEY GO,
 AND EVER LET THERE RISE TO THEE
 AN AMEN IN THE HEAVENS AND ON THE SEA.

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ETERNAL FATHER, STRONG TO SAVE

by William Whiting, 1860.

Eternal Father, strong to save,
 Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
 Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
 Its own appointed limits keep;
 Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
 For those in peril on the sea!

O Christ! Whose voice the waters heard
And hushed their raging at Thy word,
Who walked'st on the foaming deep,
And calm amidst its rage didst sleep;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!

Most Holy Spirit! Who didst brood
Upon the chaos dark and rude,
And bid its angry tumult cease,
And give, for wild confusion, peace;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!

O Trinity of love and power!
Our brethren shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them wheresoe'er they go;
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

U.S. Episcopal Church version, 1940.

Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,

Who bidst the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
O, hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea!

Christ, the Lord of hill and plain,
O'er which our traffic runs amain,
By mountain pass or valley low,
Wherever Lord our brethren go,
Protect them by Thy guarding hand
From every peril on the land!

O Spirit Whom the Father sent
To spread abroad the firmament,
O Wind of Heaven, by Thy might
Save all who dare the eagle's flight,
And keep them by Thy watchful care
From every peril in the air!

O Trinity of love and power!
Our brethren shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them whereso'er they go.
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee,
Glad praise from air, and land, and sea!

Additional Verses

Lord, guard and guide the men who fly
Through the great spaces of the sky.
Be with the travelers in the air,
In darkening storms or sunlight fair;
Oh, hear us when we lift our prayer,
For those in peril in the air!

Aloft in solitudes of space,
Uphold them with Thy saving grace.
Thou Who supports with tender might
The balanced birds in all their flight.
Lord, if the tempered winds be near,
That, having Thee, they know no fear.

— *Mary C. D. Hamilton (1915)*

Marines

Eternal Father, grant, we pray,
To all Marines, both night and day,
The courage, honor, strength, and skill
Their land to serve, thy law fulfill
Be thou the shield forevermore
From every peril to the Corps.

— *J. E. Seim (1966)*

Seabees

Lord, stand beside the men who build,
And give them courage, strength, and skill.
O grant them peace of heart and mind,
And comfort loved ones left behind.
Lord, hear our prayers for all Seabees,
Where'er they be on land or sea.

— *R. J. Dietrich (1960)*

The Merchant Marine

Lord, stand beside the men who sail
Our merchant ships in storm and gale
In peace and war their watch they keep
On every sea, on thy vast deep.
Be with them Lord, by night and day
For Merchant Mariners we pray.

—*Wynne McClintock (Wife of former USMMA
Superintendent Gordon McClintock, USMS)*

Great Lakes Merchant Seamen

Guard us O God Almighty King
From gale of fall and fog of spring
O keep us safe from shoal and reef
Protect us from the inland seas
To long ships passing through the night
Please give Thy guidance of Thy light

The Coast Guard

Eternal Father, Lord of hosts,
Watch o'er the men who guard our coasts.
Protect them from the raging seas
And give them light and life and peace.
Grant them from thy great throne above
The shield and shelter of thy love.

— *CWO George H. Jenks, Jr., USCG (1955)*

Divers and Submariners

Lord God, our power evermore,
Whose arm doth reach the ocean floor,
Dive with our men beneath the sea;

Traverse the depths protectively.
O hear us when we pray, and keep
Them safe from peril in the deep.

— *David B. Miller (1965)*

Naval Nurses

O God, protect the women who,
In service, faith in thee renew;
O guide devoted hands of skill
And bless their work within thy will;
Inspire their lives that they may be
Examples fair on land and sea.

— *Lines 1-4, Merle E. Strickland (1972); Lines 5-6, Beatrice M. Truitt (1948)*

Antarctic and Arctic service

Creator, Father, who dost show
Thy splendor in the ice and snow,
Bless those who toil in summer light
And through the cold antarctic night,
As they thy frozen wonders learn;
Bless those who wait for their return.

— *L. E. Vogel (1965)*

Space travel

Almighty ruler of the all
Whose power extends to great and small,
Who guides the stars with steadfast law,
Whose least creation fills with awe—
Oh grant Thy mercy and Thy grace
To those who venture into space.

— *Robert A. Heinlein (1947) as part of his short story "Ordeal in Space".*

Eternal Father, King of Birth,
Who didst create the Heaven and Earth,
And bid the planets and the Sun
Their own appointed orbits run;
O hear us when we seek Thy grace
For those who soar through outer space.

— *J. E. Volonte (1961)*

Those Wounded in Combat

Creator, Father, Who first breathed
In us the life that we received,
By power of Thy breath restore
The ill, and men with wounds of war.
Bless those who give their healing care,
That life and laughter all may share.

— *Galen H. Meyer (1969)*

Civilians at home

God, Who dost still the restless foam,
Protect the ones we love at home.
Provide that they should always be
By Thine own grace both safe and free.
O Father, hear us when we pray
For those we love so far away.

— *Hugh Taylor (date unknown)*

The United States Armed Forces

Lord, guard and guide the men who fly
And those who on the ocean ply;
Be with our troops upon the land,
And all who for their country stand:

Be with these guardians day and night
And may their trust be in Thy might.

— *author unknown (1955)*

The commissioning and decommissioning of a ship

O Father, King of Earth and sea,
We dedicate this ship to thee.
In faith we send her on her way;
In faith to Thee we humbly pray:
O hear from Heaven our sailor's cry
And watch and guard her from on High!

And when at length her course is run,
Her work for home and country done,
Of all the souls that in her sailed
Let not one life in Thee have failed;
But hear from Heaven our sailor's cry,
And grant eternal life on High!

— *author/date unknown*

Additional Submarine verse

Bless those who serve beneath the deep,
Through lonely hours their vigil keep.
May peace their mission ever be,
Protect each one we ask of Thee.
Bless those at home who wait and pray,
For their return by night and day.

— *Reverend Gale R. Williamson (1976)*

United States Navy SEALs

Eternal Father, faithful friend,
Be quick to answer those we send
In brotherhood and urgent trust,
On hidden missions dangerous,
O hear us when we cry to Thee,
For SEALs in air, on land, and sea.

For those deployed

Eternal Father, lord of love
We seek your blessing from above
We thank you for the time we've shared
And pause to show our hope and care
For those deployed for whom we pray
Will know your peace while underway

West Point Cadets

Eternal God of strength and skill
Aid students who would work Thy will
To learn the lessons reverently
Of Duty, Honor, and Country
And boldly do the task that's set
Lord, guide and guard our young cadets.

— *Author/date Unknown*