

FATHER, HEAR THE PRAYER WE OFFER

(words by **Love Maria Willis** (1824-1908), and others)

Father, hear the prayer we offer:
Not for ease that prayer shall be,
But for strength that we may ever
Live our lives courageously.

Not for ever in green pastures
Do we ask our way to be;
But the steep and rugged pathway
May we tread rejoicingly ¹.

Not for ever by still waters
Would we idly rest and stay; ²
But would smite the living fountains ³
From the rocks along our way.

Be our strength in hours of weakness,
In our wanderings be our guide;
Through endeavour, failure, danger,
Father, be Thou at our side.

Let our path be bright or dreary,
Storm or sunshine be our share;
May our souls, in hope unwearied,
Make Thy work our ceaseless prayer. ⁴

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¹ In some old hymn books, verse 2 line 4 reads **Would we strive to climb to thee**.

² In some old hymn books, verse 3 line 2 reads **Would we idly quiet and stay**;

³ In some old hymn books, verse 3 line 3 reads **But would win the living fountains**

⁴ In the modern version, the final verse 5 is omitted.