There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy

1. There’s a wide-ness in God’s mer-cy, like the wide-ness
   of the sea. There’s a kind-ness in God’s jus-tice,
   which is more than lib-er-ty. There is no place where earth’s
   sor-rows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place
   where earth’s fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.

2. For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures
   of the mind. And the heart of the E-ter-nal
   faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God’s Word, and our lives re-
   flect thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our Lord.

These stanzas, excerpted from quite a few more, offer a reminder that the model for our dealings with others should be God’s generosity rather than limited human tolerance. The text is effectively set to a broad and sturdy Dutch folk melody, probably from the 17th century.

TEXT: Frederick William Faber, 1854, alt.
MUSIC: Dutch melody; arr. Julius Röntgen, c. 1906

FORGIVENESS

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1 Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
World without end, without end. Amen.

and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
World without end, without end. Amen.

and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.
Perhaps because this prayer-poem by the wife of a leading 19th-century Presbyterian minister grew out of her own physical and emotional suffering, it has continued to speak to many people in similar distress. It is set here to the tune created for its first printing in a hymnal.

TEXT: Elizabeth Payson Prentiss, 1856
MUSIC: William Howard Doane, 1870
Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below; praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise

Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

*Or "God"*
For the Life That You Have Given

For the life that you have given, for the love in

Christ made known, with these fruits of time and labor, with these

gifts that are your own: here we offer, Lord, our praises;

heart and mind and strength we bring; give us grace to

love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.

The text was commissioned in 1987 by Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago, where it has continued to be used each Sunday as the offertory response. The triune activity of God as Creator (line 1), Savior (line 2), and Sustainer (line 7) enables and inspires our thanks and praise.

TEXT: Carl P. Daw Jr., 1987
MUSIC: Leavitt’s Christian Lyre, 1830/31
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PLEADING SAVIOR
8.7.8.7.D
(alternate harmonization, 23)