

BELLY ACHE

O dear Lord, for goodness sake,
Please relieve my belly ache!
This gnawing hunger in my soul
This empty void, this gaping hole;
Is there nothing that can fill
This emptiness that makes me ill?

I thought I'd found the remedy
In knowledge and philosophy;
And so I gave myself to learning
Thinking this would stop the churning.
But all my labor was in vain;
My aching soul was still the same.

So another path I tried
To quench the thirst I felt inside:
I gave myself to carnal passion,
Worldly pleasure, latest fashion;
Thinking I could find true joy
If I possessed the newest toy.
But this effort too seemed cursed
And my thirst was only worse.

Yet I refused to stop my quest
For I believed that I knew best.
And so I tried a nobler door -
Serve the needy, help the poor.
Surely this would soothe my pain
And help me find some peace again.

But the hunger still was there
And now my soul was near despair.
O dear God, is this my fate?
Will nothing ever satiate?
I give up, my quest is through:
Is there something You can do?

In the silence, then I heard
A Voice that spoke a simple word:
"Not by bread alone, you see,
If you're hungry eat of Me.
For my Word is food indeed
It will satisfy your need!"

You there, sitting on the pew,
Let these verses speak to you;
And let God, for goodness sake,
Heal you of your belly ache!
Christ is here and He is able
To fill the void; come to His table.