

MS Baker¹

This manuscript is an untitled funeral hymn, written on the two sides of a single sheet of paper. The title given the manuscript here reflects that it was formerly in the possession of Wesley scholar Frank Baker (1910–1999). It is now part of the collection of the World Methodist Museum at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. The transcription below is presented with permission of the World Methodist Museum.

¹This document was produced by the Duke Center for Studies in the Wesleyan Tradition under the editorial direction of Randy L. Maddox, with the diligent assistance of Aileen F. Maddox.
Last updated: August 1, 2010.

[Untitled.]²

1. [Worthy i]s the slaughter'd Lamb
[Prais]e and blessing to receive!
[Who for] us the world or'ecame,
Doth the grace victorious give:³
Grace and goodness infinite
He hath to a sinner shown,
Numbred with the saints in light,
Caught her up to share his throne.
2. Yielding to an early call,
Him she oft on earth pursued,
Willing made to give up all,
Sigh'd to feel th' atoning blood,
Tasted the good word of grace,
Earnest of celestial joys,
Sat in humble Mary's place,
Long'd to hear the Bridegroom's voice.
3. But she soon unfaithful prov'd,
Forfeited her joy and peace,
Far from her Redeemer rov'd⁴
O're the barren wilderness;⁵
To the things⁶ of earth inclin'd,
To the world, her Saviour's foe:
Yet, unconquerably kind
LOVE refus'd to let her go.
4. Jesus sent a⁷ messenger,
(Bent his purchase to regain,)
Kindest when he seem'd severe,
Hedg'd her round with sacred pain:

²Published posthumously in *Unpublished Poetry*, 3:363–65.

³Ori., “to us the victory” changed to “the grace victorious.”

⁴Ori., “Jesus feet remov'd” changed to “her Redeemer rov'd.”

⁵Ori., “Wandering o're the wilderness” changed to “O're the barren wilderness.”

⁶Ori., “toys.”

⁷Ori., “his.”

While she frowardly r[ov'd on]
He her broken reeds r[emov'd]
Brought by pining⁸ sickness [down]
Chasten'd whom he dearly lo[v'd].⁹

5. Shaking the weak house of clay,
Blasting every earthly hope,
Sickness tore her strength away,
Forc'd the fugitive to stop:
Then her troubled soul awoke,
Then she heard th' appointed rod,
Sunk beneath his mercy's stroke,
All renounc'd, to find her God.
6. All her happiness below,
Pleasure, wealth, and power, and praise,
Now she doth for Christ forego;
All her works, and righteousness:
Stript and blind¹⁰ and truly poor,
Only sin she calls her own,
Weeping lies at Mercy's door,
Languishing for Christ alone.
7. Oft the dreadful king was seen,
Justly by the guilty fear'd,
But the Friend of sinful men
Always with his foe appear'd:
Both she saw approaching fast,
Ready to resign her breath,
But she gladly own'd at last
"LOVE has quicker wings than Death!
8. "O how pretious is his blood
"In a dying sinner's eyes!"¹¹

Ransom'd¹¹

⁸Ori., "~~her strength by~~" changed to "by pining."

⁹The manuscript is torn at the end of lines five through eight (the reverse side of p. 1), likely missing words are supplied.

¹⁰Ori., "~~of all;~~" changed to "and blind."

¹¹The word "Ransom'd" is in the bottom right-hand corner of the page showing the first word of the continuing stanza on the next page. However, the remainder of the manuscript is missing.