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Devotion: Psalm 16

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Contributor's Note

A rich Protestant tradition, metrical psalm-singing has come into my life through the church I attend at Cedarville. The melody and meter have impressed the words into my heart in ways that mere memorization could not have done. In this era where poets and theologians have less and less to do with each other, I have sought to honor that tradition by writing my own versifications in the old meters. This psalm is the firstfruits of that effort. I have rendered it in the meter of the doxology, four iambic lines of eight syllables each, and it could be sung to any tune marked "L.M." in a hymnal.



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Preserve me, Lord; I trust in you;
My soul has claimed you for my God,
I have no good apart from you.
But for the saints on earth abroad—

Yes, in your people I rejoice.
But those who serve another god
Increase their sorrows by their choice;
I will not take their offered blood.

Oh Lord, my portion and my cup,
Who keeps my lot and lines secure,
In you my soul is lifted up
And my inheritance is sure.

I bless the Lord who counsels me!
My heart instructs me through the night,
And shaken I shall never be,
For I have set Him to my right.

Therefore my heart is glad indeed;
In hope my body too shall rest.
From deepest hell my soul is freed,
And I shall not decay in death.

Yes, you will show life's path to me
And where you are is fullest joy,
And still at your right hand I see
Pleasures forevermore and aye.