

175

Seek Ye First

Descant

The musical score consists of two systems of music. The first system, labeled 'Descant', has three staves. The top staff is soprano (G clef), the middle staff is alto (C clef), and the bottom staff is bass (F clef). The key signature is G major (one sharp). The time signature is common time (indicated by '2'). The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia,' are written below the notes. The second system continues the melody, also in G major and common time, with lyrics including 'Seek ye first the kingdom of God', 'Ask, and it shall be given unto you', 'You shall not live by bread alone', 'al - le - lu - ia,' and 'and seek, but by its ev - righ - teous ness, find; word'.

The author and composer wrote the first stanza and folk-style tune after attending a Bible study on Matthew 6:33. The later stanzas, based respectively on Matthew 7:7 and Matthew 4:4, emerged anonymously. Such meditative singing of scripture is an important form of sung prayer.

TEXT: Stanza 1, Karen Lafferty, 1971, alt.; stanzas 2-3, anon.; Spanish trans. anon.;
Korean trans. The United Methodist Korean Hymnal Committee

MUSIC: Karen Lafferty, 1971

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LAFFERTY
Irregular

al - le - lu - ia,
and all these things shall be add - ed un - to you.
knock, and the door shall be o - pened un - to you.
that pro - ceeds from the mouth of God.

al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

SPANISH

1 *Busca primero el reino de Dios
y su perfecta justicia,
que lo demás lo añadirá el Señor.
Alelu, aleluya.*

KOREAN

1 너희는 먼저- 주의 나라와
그의를 구하-면
이모든것 네게 더하시리라
알렐-루 알렐루야