

Once to Every Soul and Nation

James Russell Lowell, 1845

Tune: Thomas John Williams, 1890
arr. from *The English Hymnal*, 1906

1. Once to ___ eve - ry soul and ___ na - tion
2. Then to ___ side with Truth is ___ no - ble,
3. Though the ___ cause of E - vil ___ pros - per,

Comes the ___ mo - ment to ___ de - cide,
When we ___ share ___ her wretch - ed crust,
Yet 'tis ___ Truth ___ a - lone ___ is strong,

In the ___ strife of Truth with ___ False - hood,
Ere her ___ cause bring fame and ___ prof - it,
Though her ___ por - tion be the ___ scaf - fold

For the ___ good ___ or e - vil side;
And 'tis ___ pros - perous to ___ be just;
And up - on ___ the throne be Wrong,—

9

Some great ___ cause, God's new Mes - si - ah,
 Then it ___ is the brave soul ___ choos - es,
 Yet that ___ scaf - fold sways the ___ fu - ture,

11

Of - fering ___ each the bloom or ___ blight,—
 While the ___ cow - ard stands a - side,
 And be - hind the dim un - known,

13

And the ___ choice goes by for - ev - er
 Till the ___ mul - ti - tude make ___ vir - tue
 Stands the ___ Spir - it in the ___ shad - ow,

15

'Twixt that ___ dark - ness and ___ that light.
 Of the ___ faith ___ they had ___ de - nied.
 Keep - ing ___ watch a - bove ___ their own.

From Lowell's poem "The Present Crisis," written in 1845 to protest the Mexican American War. The poem became an anthem for abolitionists.